

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: April 21, 1948

FROM : SAC, St. Louis

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDSUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER  
SUBJECT OF INACTIVE SECURITY INDEX CARD  
SECURITY MATTER - CDATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Reurlet to St. Louis, dated March 29, 1948.

The following background data on the subject was taken from  
information contained in his Army Service record on file at the  
DPRB, World War II Unit, AGO, St. Louis, Missouri:

Name and Service No.	JOHN LAUTNER, ASN 32622865
Address at time of Discharge	212 W. 22nd St., New York, New York
Address at time of Induction	same as above
Inducted through LB# 19 at	New York, New York on 11-16-42
Date and Place of Birth	1-1-02, Polanok Seclo, Czechoslovakia
Social Security No.	072-18-7594
Civilian Occupation	Executive Secretary for insurance organization
Military Occupation	Translator
Foreign Service	2 years, 10 days
Battles and Campaigns	Naples - Foggia
Date and Place of Discharge	6-20-45, Ft. Dix, New Jersey
Highest Rank held	Technician Fourth grade
Relatives	Mother - MARY LAUTNER, Wilson Ave. Youngstown, Ohio
	Wife [redacted]
	[redacted]
	Sister - [redacted]
	[redacted]

Remarks:

His induction questionnaire reflected  
that he is a U. S. citizen.MHF:nch  
100-7998

RECORDED

INDEXED

100-16177-36  
APR 24 1948

62 JUL 7 1948

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b7C

SAC, Pittsburgh

July 2, 1948

Director, FBI

JOHN LAUTNER  
SECURITY MATTER - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

The Security Index card for this subject was placed in the inactive files at the Bureau when he was inducted into the Army.

For your information there is attached hereto a copy of a letter dated April 21, 1948 from the Saint Louis Division which shows that the subject has been discharged from the Army.

In view of the subject's previous activity in the Communist Party, together with his service in the Military establishment during World War II, you are instructed to institute inquiries to ascertain his present activity.

In the event your investigation reveals that a Security Index card is justified under the instructions outlined in SAC Ltr. 57, series 1948, dated April 10, 1948, you should submit Form FD-122 recommending that one be prepared.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

If your inquiries reveal that a Security Index card is not justified under those instructions, then you should recommend that the Security Index card now being maintained in the inactive files at the Bureau be cancelled entirely.

1948 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

100-14177

Del:dc

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Pittsburgh

DATE: Pittsburgh, Pa.  
9-1-48

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER  
alias John Lottner  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
Bureau File No. 100-16177

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Rebulet to Pittsburgh dated July 2, 1948, and New York letter to Pittsburgh dated August 20, 1948, advising that LAUTNER presently resides at 212 West 22nd Street, New York City, and requesting pertinent serials be forwarded to New York.

A review of the file (formerly Huntington File No. 100-230, Huntington Office of Origin) reflects that New York is in possession of all pertinent serials with the following exceptions which are being forwarded as enclosures with this letter to New York.

Bureau letter to Huntington dated January 6, 1943, forwarding pertinent translations of copies of "Magyar Jovo" (The Hungarian Journal) for August 1, 4, 6, 8, and 11, 1942.

Copy of translations mentioned above.

St. Louis letter to Bureau, 4-21-48, furnishing background data from subject's Army record (no copies of this being retained in Pittsburgh Office)

Bureau letter to Pittsburgh, 7-2-48.

Copies of newspaper, "Magyar Jovo," for August 1, 4, 6, 7, and 11, 1942, from which the translations, Item 2, were made.

The Army records reflect that the subject was residing at his present address at the time of induction into the Army, November, 1942, and at the time of discharge in 1945, and has apparently been residing at this address since approximately 1941, when he moved from West Virginia; therefore, New York is being considered the new office of origin and this case is being referred upon completion to that office.

Insofar as the Pittsburgh Office is concerned, the Security Index Card on the subject should be cancelled as this office does not have recent information regarding his activities. The New York Office is requested to advise the Bureau whether the Security Index Card on the subject should be cancelled or brought up to date.

cc: New York (100-16516) (Enclosures)

RECORDED - 28

CLW:cc  
100-9396

100-16177-27  
F B I

31 SEP 3 1948

FILE



General Bureau

United States Department of Justice

New York, New York

FD-122



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. 100-16516

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC

TAM/MLT/CLS

per 18, 1948

Director, FBI

JOHN LAUTNER, wa., John Lottner  
RE: SECURITY MATTER - C

Dear Sir:

It is recommended that a Security Index card be prepared relative to the individual named below:

Name: JOHN LAUTNER  
Aliases: JOHN LOTTNER

Residence Address: Apartment 4P, 212 West 22nd Street,  
New York City

Business Address: c/o Communist Party, New York State,  
5th Floor, 35 East 12th Street,  
New York City

\_\_\_\_\_ Native Born \_\_\_\_\_ Alien X Naturalized  
X Communist \_\_\_\_\_ German \_\_\_\_\_ Miscellaneous  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fascist (Italian) \_\_\_\_\_ Japanese \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth January 1, 1902

Place of Birth Polanok Seclo, Czechoslovakia

Entered U. S. In 1903 at \_\_\_\_\_

Naturalized (date) July, 1926

Naturalized (place and Court) Court of Common Pleas, 19 1948  
Youngstown, Ohio

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*  
EDWARD SCHEIDT  
SAC

Encls. (5)

JAT:VMF

NY 100-16516

EX-25

EX-25



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC

FEDERAL TAM/MLT/CLS

ON

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 100-16516 VMF

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 11/18/48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/29; 11/1/48	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] (A)	b6 b7C
TITLE JOHN LAUTNER, with alias: John Lottner			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>Subject was succeeded as District Organizer for the CP in W. Va., 1/17/41 by [REDACTED]. Subject became National Secretary of Hungarian-American Section of the IWO, 2/1/42. Subject inducted into Army, LDB #19, at NYC on 11/16/42. He served as a translator for the Army and spent two years and ten days overseas, highest rank that of Technician 4th Grade. He was discharged 6/20/45 at Fort Dix, N.J. After his discharge, subject was active in Chelsea and Yorkville Clubs of CP - NYC and was one of five Communist directors of American-Hungarian Relief, Inc., who tried to increase Communist influence in that organization during 1945. Subject has had numerous contacts with STEVE NELSON, member of the National Committee and chairman of the Nationality Groups Committee of the Communist Party, USA. Subject attended plenum of the National Committee of the CP held at Hotel Diplomat, NYC, 12/3, 4, 5/46. Subject acted as instructor in Strategy and Tactics of the CP at a six-day training school sponsored by the CP at the Jefferson School of Social Science, 7/21-27/47. Subject served as instructor at a three-session Seminar held at the Chelsea Club of the CP in September, 1947. Subject is presently serving as a member of the NY State Review Commission of the CP, 5th Floor, 35 East 12th Street, NYC. Part of his duties consist of investigating charges against party members. [REDACTED] has resided at 212 West 22nd Street, NYC, present residence of the subject, since prior to the latter's induction into the Army.</p> <p>100-16516-8-48 NEW YORK</p>				
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Edward J. [illegible]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE				
ENCLOSURE DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES				
COPIES DESTROYED 4/1/46		100-16177-28		
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		31 NOV 19 1948		
5 - Bureau 3 - New York		EX-25		

NY 100-16516

REFERENCE: Bureau file 100-16177  
Report of SA Wilfred Herbert Erwin, 4/7/43, New York.  
Pittsburgh letter to Bureau, 9/1/48

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DETAILS: At New York, New York.

The name of the subject, as JOHN LAUTNER, appears on a photostatic copy of "Index of photos in the 'Daily Worker' from February 2, 1922 to December 31, 1942," which was furnished to SA [redacted] on August 26, 1944 by [redacted] who received the list from BENJAMIN MANDEL, Dies Committee investigator. The list indicated that LAUTNER'S picture appears on page 3 of the "Daily Worker" for September 11, 1937.

In the "Daily Worker" for June 9, 1940, there appears an article entitled, "Capital Parley Warns of Threat to Civil Rights". The article sets forth information to the effect that ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, was an outstanding speaker at the June 7, 8, and 9, 1940 conference of the National Federation of Constitutional Liberties, held in Washington, D.C.

Miss FLYNN was followed by JOHN LAUTNER, Secretary of the Communist Party of West Virginia, who told how reactionary State officials had turned over to the Dies Committee petitions to place the party on the ballot.

By letter dated May 2, 1941, the Huntington Division advised the Bureau that Confidential Informant T-1 had furnished that office with a press release of the National Committee of the Communist Party, USA, dated July 7, 1938, which had been sent to the "Charleston Gazette", Charleston, West Virginia. The release was in the form of a memo to city editors of newspapers and it advised that requests for specific information about the Communist Party in specific localities should be addressed to the various state headquarters of the Communist Party. Included among the state secretaries listed was JOHN LAUTNER, Box 92, Charleston, West Virginia, State Secretary of the Communist Party of West Virginia.

In the report of SA [redacted] dated November 28, 1941, at Huntington, West Virginia, re [redacted] for the Communist Party in West Virginia", information is set forth to the

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effect that [redacted] Charleston, West Virginia, an admitted former Communist can testify that [redacted] admitted to him having taken over the duties of JOHN LAUTNER, who was district organizer for the Communist Party in West Virginia, immediately before [redacted], prior to January 17, 1941.

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The "Fraternal Outlook" is an official publication of the International Workers Order, Inc. In the issue of May, 1942, there appears an article entitled, "New Leaders -- New Roles", concerning several prominent leaders in the International Workers Order. Accompanying a picture of LAUTNER are the following comments:

"Steel, bricks, coal and men have been the materials with which JOHN LAUTNER has worked in his span of forty years as brick-layer, pipe-cutter in the Youngstown steel mills and labor organizer in Michigan, West Virginia and other states. He joined the order (International Workers Order) in 1932. On February 1, 1942, he became National Secretary of the Hungarian-American Section."

Confidential Informant T-2 furnished this office with a photostat of a document believed to be the attendance record of a General Executive Board Meeting of the IWO held on June 27, 1942 at New York City. Signatures were affixed to the original document to indicate his or her presence at the meeting. Included on this list was the name of JOHN LAUTNER.

The report of SA Douglas J. Williams dated July 27, 1942, at Indianapolis, re International Workers Order, Inc., sets forth information obtained on April 28, 1942 from Confidential Informant T-3. The informant advised that the [redacted] of the Hungarian Lodge of the IWO at 1173 Kossut, Indiana Harbor, Indiana, was [redacted] Indiana, who advised the informant that JOHN LAUTNER, the new organizer for the IWO Hungarian Lodges, visited [redacted] home on Monday, April 26, 1942 and was given all the information on the police raids (local police had raided homes of IWO members.)

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Confidential Informant T-3 advised agents of the Indianapolis Office on July 18, 1942 that HERBERT BENJAMIN, National Executive Secretary of the IWO had resigned to take some job with the Communist Party. The IWO placed three men to do work formerly taken care of by BENJAMIN. These men were [redacted] and JOHN LAUTNER, Hungarian.

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By letter dated December 14, 1942, the Bureau advised that on July 14, 1942, Confidential Informant T-4 furnished the following information concerning the International Workers Order:

"Not to be confused with the districts which are geographical divisions or the organization, are the language branches with their national directors."

Confidential Informant T-4 furnished a list of the national directors of the language branches, which included the name of the subject as director of the Hungarian Branch.

On page one of the November, 1942 issue of "In Order", published by the National Executive Committee of the International Workers Order, JOHN LAUTNER is listed as a member of the following sub-committees of the National Executive Committee:

- III Native-born; National Clubs
- IV Membership; Order Building

The report of SA Douglas J. Williams, dated November 11, 1942, at Indianapolis, re Communist Party, USA, District #8, Indianapolis Division, contains a summary of information obtained from confidential informants of that office. Information is set forth to the effect that literature put out by the International Workers Order in the Indianapolis area is usually published in several different languages and the instructions are given to the organizer for the particular language group for transmittal to that group.

Language classes are also conducted under the sponsorship of the IWO and as an example of this, a class in Hungarian had at that time been formed at Gary, Indiana and another at Hammond Indiana. This class, which consists of a six-weeks course in the Hungarian language, was being taught by JOHN LAUTNER, a former Communist Party organizer in West Virginia.

The report of SA Hugh L. Steger, dated May 4, 1943 at Indianapolis, in the same case is also a summary of information obtained from informants of that office. It sets forth information to the effect that the IWO uniformly adopts the policy of securing organizers suited to the particular nationality of persons to be contacted. In line with this policy, it was learned that JOHN LAUTNER was serving as a National Hungarian Secretary of the IWO.

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Concerning the classes in the Hungarian language which LAUTNER was supposed to hold in Gary and Hammond, Indiana, this report sets forth information that these classes had been cancelled after LAUTNER was inducted into the United States Army.

The "Fraternal Outlook" for December, 1942, in an article captioned, "Off to War", sets forth the following information:

"JOHN LAUTNER, National Secretary of the Hungarian-American Section (IWO) now a Private in the Army, happily accepts the gift of a sweater from DAVE GREENE, New York District Secretary, on behalf of the National Servicemen's Welfare Committee.....LAUTNER, long an active labor leader, assumed his IWO post in February, 1942, prepared to take battle post in November. Born in East Hungary, he came to the United States in 1903 at the age of one, worked here in Ohio steel mills and as a brick-layer -- always a fighter for justice -- LAUTNER knows only the United Nations can preserve the independence of America and bring freedom to his land of origin now under the Axis heel."

The "Fraternal Outlook" for April, 1943 contains an article entitled, "We Salute". Beneath a picture of LAUTNER in uniform was the following:

"JOHN LAUTNER, Hungarian-American L.1002, New York, New York."

Confidential Informant T-5 advised that on April 12, 1943, STEVE NELSON, a member of the Comintern Apparatus, now a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, USA, member of the National Board of the Communist Party, USA and Chairman of the National Groups Committee, Communist Party, USA, contacted someone at 212 West 22nd Street. This latter address is that of the apartment house where LAUTNER and his wife reside.

According to information taken from the "Fraternal Outlook" for August, 1943, the Hungarian Section of the International Workers Order, Language Groups, at that time had 11,583 members and its National Secretary was JOHN LAUTNER.

Confidential Informant T-6 advised that in 1944 LAUTNER was a member of the National Executive Committee of the Hungarian National Group of the IWO and a member of the Newspaper Guild.

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Confidential Informant T-7 advised that the International Workers Order has consistently followed the Communist Party line. The informant stated that when [redacted] resigned in December, 1941 from his position as National Secretary of the Hungarian Section, he was replaced by JOHN LAUTNER, a member of the Communist Party. LAUTNER later left the organization, according to the informant.

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On page 18 of the "Fraternal Outlook" for June 7, 1944, the following appeared under a picture of the subject in Army uniform:

"JOHN LAUTNER, with the United States forces somewhere overseas, was formerly acting National Secretary of the Hungarian-American Section. He spent a brief time with the section, but did much valuable work, contributing to its growth and development. His latest job is making it hot for Hitler."

On July 18, 1945, Confidential Informant T-8 advised that at a membership meeting of the Chelsea Club of the Communist Political Association, held on July 18, 1945, JOHN LAUTNER was nominated as a delegate to the Communist Party New York State Convention, which was to be held on July 21-22, 1945.

On November 28, 1945, Confidential Informant T-9 advised that at a membership meeting of the Yorkville Club of the Communist Party on November 27, 1945, which was attended by 48 members, [redacted] spoke of the reorganization of the club and advised the members that the club was to elect three members who were to meet with three members of the United Nations and mobilize three members of other clubs. Those nominated were [redacted] [redacted] JOHN LAUTNER and others. LAUTNER advised that he would like to accept but that he would be in Pittsburgh or some other part of Pennsylvania at that time.

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On December 1, 1945, Confidential Informant T- [redacted] advised that at a meeting of the Yorkville Club, held on November 29, 1945, [redacted] present elected the Provisional Executive for the next district, running south of 84th Street, who were to concentrate on the Hungarian and Czechoslovakian groups. It was suggested that JOHN LAUTNER be on this committee, but [redacted] said

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it was impossible, that "after all, JOHN is a national figure in the Communist Party."

On December 7, 1945, Confidential Informant T-9 advised that at the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting of the Yorkville Club, held on November 29, 1945, [ ] stated that JOHN LAUTNER of the Hungarian-American Council for Democracy, 23 West 26th Street, New York City, had promised to turn over to the club a list of names of good contacts for the Yorkville branch.

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On December 8, 1945, this same informant advised that at a meeting of the Yorkville Club, held on December 5, 1945, [ ] said, "JOHN LAUTNER has promised thirty new members as soon as we have our Hungarian Club set up."

On December 29, 1945, Confidential Informant T-9 furnished a list of all the members of the Yorkville Club of the Communist Party as of December, 1945. This list included the name of JOHN LAUTNER, 212 West 22nd Street, New York City.

Confidential Informant T-10 advised on June 22, 1945 that JOHN LAUTNER, who stated he had just returned from overseas, made arrangements to meet JOHN WILLIAMSON, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party and secretary of the Labor Department, Communist Party, USA, the following day.

On page 6 of the "Daily Worker" for January 30, 1946, there is set forth in the column, "Letters From Our Readers", a letter from the subject, which was quoted under the caption, "Sees Hopeful Picture in Hungary" LAUTNER'S letter is quoted in part as follows:

"JOSEPH STAROBIN'S article, 'Mr. BYRNES' Trip to Moscow,' leaves the impression that the elections in Hungary were a major defeat for the democratic forces as in Austria. I believe he is wrong for the following reasons: After 25 long years of reaction and fascism in Hungary, where Communists were jailed and hanged, where the Communist Party was outlawed, they elected 71 deputies to the Hungarian Parliament in this election....Of course reaction is not dead in Hungary. Remnants remain. Strong forces outside the country endanger the growing new democracy, but I think it was a mistake to lump Hungary together with Austria as examples of the defeat of progress as this article said."

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The article pointed out various conditions and circumstances which had arisen and which indicated that the Communists held more advantages than might be supposed from reading STAROBIN'S article. An editor's note accompanying LAUTNER'S letter advised as follows:

"Mr. LAUTNER'S criticism is well taken. The Hungarian picture is quite different from Austria's as we had ourselves indicated in articles previous to the one referred to."

Confidential Informant T-11 made available a copy of a report submitted by JOHN LAUTNER of the International Workers Order to STEVE NELSON, Chairman of the Nationality Groups Commission of the Communist Party on February 4, 1946 regarding the work of Party members in American-Hungarian Relief, Inc.

In this report, LAUTNER went into great detail concerning American-Hungarian Relief, Inc., and stressed the fact that it was very important for the CP to increase its control in that organization.

Part of this report is being set forth below:

"I want to deal with our work in this relief movement in detail because it aroused a lot of controversy on the part of some individuals in our movement. Accusations of revisionism were leveled against those comrades who work in the relief movement.

"First, here is the case history on the formation of the American-Hungarian Relief, Inc. In 1944 the Democratic Council applied for a charter in the State of New York for relief purposes. With this charter, the Council asked the Presidential War Relief Board to grant a permit. This permit was not given. In the meantime the Council approached the fraternal organizations to cooperate in the project and form a united action. The fraternal organizations, Verhovay and the others refused and told the Democratic Council to approach the American Hungarian Federation, with which they are affiliated. At the same time, the Federation took out a charter in New York State and also applied for a permit to the Presidential War Relief Board. They were told that the Democratic Council also asked for a permit, and since only one permit will be granted to that nationality groups, they better get together and form a joint board of directorate, and then come back for a permit. After a few preliminary conferences, the meeting that formed the board of directorate took place last spring in New York. A directorate of 30 was agreed on, on the basis of organizational representation. Five of our people



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"became members of the board. One of our comrades became associate secretary in the national office of the relief. Other directorate members were elected from the fraternal organizations, churches and three from the American Hungarian Federation.

"My feeling is that some of the elected reactionary board members never had any desire for this unity, or what is more important, did not want to aid the present Hungarian new democracy. Events that took place in the last eight months in the relief movement bear out this feeling. The Catholic clergy refused to join the relief movement, and snipe from the outside that the relief is controlled by the Bolshevik government in Hungary anyway. A section of the reformist ministers does the same as their Catholic colleagues.

"The reformist ministers within the relief movement aided by other reactionaries never stopped trying to oust our people from the board of directorate, particularly the associate secretary from the national office, but due to the work we did in relief and the confidence we gained from the honest elements in the relief leadership, plus the support from the relief chapters, the reactionaries failed in their attempt.

"We are a minority in the relief leadership, but strong enough to prevent some of the schemes the reactionaries tried to project. Last November in Pittsburgh at the board meeting they proposed, and it was voted upon 24 to 6, to give aid to Hungarians outside of Hungary. By this proposal they meant to give aid to those elements who are today in Austria and Bavaria. Of course they made it clear that for this purpose funds should be handled separately, and that those declared as war criminals shall not get benefits.

"We raised this question with the War Relief Board, reasoning that this would disrupt the relief movement. The War Relief Board prevented the initiation of this action. The Catholic priests in the meanwhile have their own relief activities through the Catholic charities movement and the aid collected finds its way to the Vatican, where it is used as a political weapon against democratic Hungary.

"The Board of Directors of American Hungarian Relief Inc. met last Tuesday for their first annual meeting in New York. One of the UNRRA representatives came down to give detailed information as to how they can aid

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"in solving transportation problems for the relief organization. As a condition he laid down the right of UNRRA to supervise the indiscriminate distribution of the articles they take over free of charge. It does not mean their right to distribute. The offer received favorable consideration.

\*I want to bring out some of the events of this meeting because it shows up the maneuverings of the reactionaries and also the effects of our work in the months past.

\*Right after the opening of the meeting a representative of the Hungarian government, Dr. Cherneky, a son-in-law of the new Hungarian Republic's president, spoke. He comes from the left wing of the Small Landholders Party and is a deputy in the Parliament.

\*In his speech, which by the way, was printed in all three Hungarian daily papers, he pointed out the tremendous problems of reconstruction and the battle against starvation in Hungary. He said that without the united effort of all Hungarians who are for this new democracy, these problems cannot be solved. His speech conveyed this new democratic spirit in Hungary that wants to build a new way of life out of the ruins caused by the sins of the past regimes. This keynote speech registered with some of the directors, but not with all.

\*The rest of the day passed by with the reactionaries trying to bring about decisions to oust the left wing. They came with recommendations to limit the board of directorate to 30, to remove the editors of the three daily papers, plus three of our representatives from the board. They argued that the trade unions and the representatives of the Democratic Council made no contribution in the relief work. They proposed to change these members with well known women in the Hungarian community. Some of the women they proposed were officials of the Hungarian Federation.

\*We fought for first amending the charter to increase the membership of the board with the most active people in relief work. This motion was carried and an increase in the directorate to 50 was carried. It was a clear cut victory over the reactionaries. Only a few votes were cast against it. The present board in its composition remains, plus 20 new members to be brought in from the most active chapters. It will be our task now to see to it that conferences are held in cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, and New York and the most active people are recommended for the board.

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"The reactionaries left defeated from this meeting, but they will not rest there. Two days later an editorial appeared in their New York Mouthpiece, 'The Nepszava' titled 'A Sad Report from the Relief Board Meeting' in which they suggest that the American Hungarians cannot work together with the Communists and that they shall work separately. The Answer to this will be given by those that worked so hard together with us for aid to the starving Hungarian people.

"The reason I dealt with this question in such detail is because this activity is the first united action in which outside of the Catholic Church and a handful of other reactionaries, all the fraternal organizations are working together for the first time. There are fascists in the relief directorate who in the past faithfully served Horthy and his governments, but they are losing their hold which they had through the Federation on the large fraternal organizations. To the officers of the fraternal organizations, this meeting was additional evidence as to the direction the Federation leadership is travelling. They have learned that the time is here for them to clean house.

"On our part we must always keep in mind that the failure of the united effort of the Hungarian people at home to overcome the present difficulties would be a blow to democracy and progress and a victory for reaction. Therefore we must exert our influence in the relief movement toward unity to get the most and quickest aid for Hungary."

Confidential Informant T-10 advised on February 8, 1946 that LAUTNER conferred with STEVE NELSON and told NELSON he had completed "the report" and that he would deliver it to NELSON. It is believed that the report referred to is the one quoted above.

Confidential Informant T-12 advised on December 9, 1946 that BELLA DODD, 25 West 43rd Street, New York City, had received a letter dated March 22, 1946 from "JOHNNY" on the letterhead of the National Office of the Communist Party, USA, 35 East 12th Street, New York City, regarding the setting up of a New York State Housing Commission to exploit the housing situation in this state. JOHN LAUTNER'S name appeared on an attached list of housing committee members and the "JOHNNY" referred to above is believed to be LAUTNER.

On July 19, 1946, Confidential Informant T-13 advised that the subject's name appeared on a list of names of members of the Chelsea Club of the Communist Party.

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Confidential Informant T-14 advised on October 27, 1946 that at a meeting of the HERMAN BOTTSCHER Club of the Communist Party held on October 24, 1946 at the Yorkville Casino, the subject addressed the club on the growth of democracy in the Balkans.

The "Daily Worker" for October 18, 1946 carried the following advertisement:

"Week of October 14-20:- All out week to build circulation of Communist Press. Every club is urged to aid in overcoming the lag in circulation of the 'Worker' and 'Daily Worker'. All Communists mobilize this Sunday, October 20, 1946 at 10:30 AM at your branch or section headquarters. Shop and industrial club members report to the headquarters nearest your address. Members of national, state and county committees, and of the 'Daily Worker' Staff will address these mobilizations."

The ad advised that the subject would address the group at the East Harlem headquarters, 171 East 116th Street.

Confidential Informant T-14 advised that on October 4th and 5th, 1946, he saw JOHN LAUTNER, a Communist Party member, at meetings of the American Labor Party Club, 226 East 86th Street.

On October 27, 1946, Confidential Informant T-14 furnished the following information concerning an election rally held on October 24, 1946 at the Yorkville Casino, sponsored by the HERMAN BOTTSCHER Club of the Communist Party, New York City:

There were about seventy people present. Among those known to the informant was the subject. [redacted] acted as chairman and [redacted] was the first speaker who addressed the meeting on problems of the German-American Bund here and in Germany and the need of denazification of Germany, and the building of a democratic Germany. According to the informant, the subject "then spoke as a member of the Hungarian concentration group and spoke of the growth of Democracy in the Balkans and especially Hungaria. He said the party of Hungary now has a membership of over 600,000 and that only a few years back, around 1940, the membership was only about 3500. He said that this was through the people's own volition and that the Soviet Union and Red Army has done no urging whatsoever on this issue."

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"JOHN then went on to our current elections at home and the need of defeating monopoly of capital in its crying for a new war wherein they can again make large profits at the expense of the worker. He said we must defeat reaction at home as represented by DEWEY, HOOVER, VANDENBERG, TAFT and TRUMAN, and elect such progressives as MARCANTONIO, POWELL and COLLINS. He also spoke of the need of comrades and all our sympathizers doing their utmost in the campaign, first to insure a big vote for our Communist Party and second to elect candidates of the Progressive Labor Coalition."

Confidential Informant T-15 advised that at 1:15 PM on November 19, 1946, an individual believed to be STEVE NELSON was seen entering CP Headquarters at East 12th Street.

Confidential Informant T-10 advised that this was the regularly scheduled day for a meeting of the Foreign Language Commission, of which STEVE NELSON was the director. The informant stated that this commission is composed of ISRAEL LAUTNER, representing the State Office of the CP; [redacted] representing the Italian-speaking group; [redacted] of the Yugoslavian group; and JOHN LAUTNER, of the Hungarian Section, together with others whom, as yet, the informant had not been able to identify. These meetings, according to Confidential Informant T-10, are regularly held on Monday afternoon at the offices of the IWO at 85th Avenue, New York City.

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Confidential Informant T-10 furnished the following information:

On April 23, 1946, STEVE NELSON inquired of [redacted] of the Hungarian Brotherhood of the International Workers Order, as to "JOHNNY'S" condition (believed to be JOHN LAUTNER) and upon being informed that JOHN was better, but not working, advised that they would not call on him for anything. On the same date, LAUTNER made an appointment to see NELSON about a meeting to be held that night.

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On April 26, 1946, LAUTNER made an 11:30 AM appointment to meet NELSON and get his opinion on a decision they had made the previous Monday.

On June 17, 1946, LAUTNER and NELSON decided to arrange a meeting with LOUIS WEINSTOCK of the Painters' Union. WEINSTOCK said he could not arrange it, but finally agreed to meet LAUTNER and NELSON around 2:30PM and on June 28, 1946, LAUTNER held a conversation with NELSON in a foreign language, the details of which were unknown to the informant.

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On July 15, 1946, NELSON advised LAUTNER that he was too busy to attend the Thursday night meeting of the Hungarian Club and suggested that LAUTNER arrange with [ ] to get another speaker.

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On August 20, 1946, LAUTNER held another conversation with NELSON in a foreign language, the details of which were not known to the informant.

On November 7, 1946, LAUTNER and NATHAN EINHORN, of the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, both made appointments to meet STEVE NELSON during the afternoon.

On January 27, 1947, NELSON informed an unidentified man (possibly SAM MILGROM) that he wanted JOHN (LAUTNER), [ ] and the others who were there before (possibly [ ]) to meet him at the National Headquarters Office that afternoon. The individual who was unknown to the informant, said that all would be there except [ ]

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Confidential Informant T-16 advised that JOHN LAUTNER'S name appeared on a list of names of those from New York City, who attended the National Committee plenum of the CP, USA, held at the Hotel Diplomat, New York City on December 3, 4 and 5, 1946. The plenum was attended by approximately 125 CP officials and trade unionists.

On March 31, 1947, Confidential Informant T-17 advised that JOHN LAUTNER was listed in party records as "SO, Building Trades, AFL." It is believed that SO means Section Organizer.

The following information was furnished by Confidential Informant T-18 on July 24, 1947:

A six-day training school was sponsored by the CP of New York County at the Jefferson School of Social Science from July 21 to 27, 1947. At the fourth meeting of this session, the students were instructed on "Strategy and Tactics of the Communist Party" by JOHN LAUTNER.

The informant described LAUTNER as follows: "He has been an organizer in the coal mines. He has a very Slavic accent but is a very good speaker in spite of this. The following is one of his remarks: 'Remember to tell them (all recruits) that those that do the work should be the ones to receive ownership of the raw materials and of the means of production. There are millions that do not understand this but fight for a trade union, higher wages, shorter hours, etc. These are very right for our work, nevertheless. Our main objective to socialism, therefore, is to line up all these factions and to unite them in one main force.'"

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On July 27, 1947, the last meeting of the session was held. According to the informant, at this meeting, LAUTNER stated, "The two parties (Democratic and Republican) are both for the capitalist. When the workers get tired of one of them the capitalists give them the other. Where we have Proportional Representation, it is much safer for groups such as the Communist Party to have a say in the government. The workers need only one party because they have one and only one objective (overthrowing of capitalism), therefore, they only need the Communist Party, but it would be a serious mistake to try to become a third party under that name, therefore (we need) a third party of another front. Most of the socialists under DEBBS came over to the Communist Party when it was formed prior to World War I."

According to the informant, a member of the audience then asked LAUTNER the following question, "Was the first party then our party?" LAUTNER answered, "Yes, that is why we cannot have the Socialist Party with us -- only those socialists who accept the program of our party." Continuing, LAUTNER stated, "As Lenin said, the Communist Party is the advance guard. When the hundreds are organized, their power is multiplied ten-fold over the thousands unorganized."

"Also, we must be leaders in the daily fight of the workers towards a socialistic form of government."

"We must have a revolutionary period and a revolutionary theory. Because the capitalists are in the way, we will not give way. The more we have these, the faster we will gain our goal. Only the Communist Party has these theories and not those of collaborationists."

"A Communist must know what is going on in his district, shops, industries, and create struggle in them. That is the only essential difference from the party under BROWDER. He tried to dull and reduce the fighting ability of the Communist Party. All of us should be on guard against that thinking and if found routed out. With about fifty or sixty exceptions in New York State, all comrades must belong to basic organizations and be active."

The informant advised that according to LAUTNER the following are the qualities of a good Communist Party member:

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- "1. Unquestionable loyalty.
2. Struggle for Socialism above all other things.
3. Always among the masses.
4. Never afraid of mass struggle. Tried and tested (not like BROWDER'S thinking.)
5. Not only participate in issues but also organize and foment these struggles.
6. Intensive, systematic, continuous study.
7. A great collective worker.
8. Pay special attention to special problems."

T-13: The following information was furnished by Confidential Informant

The subject attended meetings of the Chelsea Club of the Communist Party on the following dates:

August 23, 1947.  
September 9, 19, 22, 26, 30, 1947.  
October 3, 13, 1947.  
November 17, 1947.

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b7C The meeting of August 23, 1947, <sup>was</sup> attended by LAUTNER as temporary full-time organizer of the Chelsea Section. [redacted] spoke of JOHN LAUTNER as being a party member for a good many years, who was sent by the county to pull the Chelsea Club out of the red.

According to the informant, on September 19, 1947, LAUTNER led the first of a three-session seminar held at the Chelsea Club.

LAUTNER stated, "In this first session, we will take up DIMITROFF'S report of the 74th Congress; the German and Italian Communists and the Communists in other countries as well as the Communist youth have displayed prodigies of valor. They have made and are making daily tremendous sacrifices. We all bow our heads in honor of such heroism and sacrifice, but



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"is not enough. Heroism must be combined with day-to-day work among the masses. In our struggle against fascist dictatorship, it is particularly dangerous to confuse the wish with the fact. We must base ourselves on the facts, on the actual, concrete situation. We can lead the masses to a decisive struggle for the overthrow of fascist dictatorship only by getting the workers who have been forced into fascist organizations or who have joined them through ignorance."

The second session of the three-session seminar was held at the Chelsea Club on September 26, 1947 and LAUTNER also instructed. LAUTNER stated, "We will take up DIMITROFF'S 'United Front and the Youth'. In speaking of the youth we must state plainly we have neglected our tasks of throwing the masses of the toiling youth into the struggle against the offensive of capital, against fascism and the danger of war. We have neglected these tasks in a number of countries. We have overestimated the enormous importance of the youth in the fight against fascism. We have not always taken count of the specific economic, political and cultural interests of the youth. We have not paid proper attention to revolutionary education of the youth."

"Our youth here in the section has dropped below par. The same goes for the youth of the county. We have been negligent in helping the youth with their programs. The youth branch in our section needs the help of adult comrades. We should make it a point to help them with their street meetings and leaflet distributions."

LAUTNER then reminded the members of the importance of the coming elections and advised there would be a special Sunday Mobilization Day at the section on October 5, 1947, before registration opened.

At the section membership meeting of the Chelsea Club on September 30, 1947, JOHN LAUTNER was the principal speaker. He discussed detailed plans for the activity of club members in the coming elections, the poor registration for the special party classes then being held at the Jefferson School, the poor state of the club finances, and the plans for the BEN DAVIS dinner to be held at the Irving Plaza, 15 Irving Place, on October 17, 1947.

The concluding session of the seminar on the Strategy and Tactics of the United Front was held at the Chelsea Club on October 3, 1947. The subject was the instructor. He stated the session with quotes from "The Communist Manifesto". LAUTNER then stated as follows:

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"In what relation do the Communists stand to the Proletarians as a whole? The Communists do not form a separate party opposed to other working class parties. They have no interests separate and apart from those of the Proletarians as a whole. They do not set up any sectarian principles of their own by which to shape and mold the proletarian movement. The Communists are distinguished from the other working class parties by this only:

1. In the national struggle of the Proletarians of the different countries they point out and bring to the front the common interest of the entire proletariat indemnity of all nationality.

2. In the various stages of development which the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie has to pass through they always and everywhere represent the interests of the movement as a whole. The Communists therefore are on the one hand practically the most advanced and resolute section of the working class parties of every country, that section which pushes forward all others.

On the other hand, theoretically, they have over the great mass of the proletariat, the advantage at clearly understanding the line of movement. The immediate aim of the Communists is the same as that of all other proletarian parties. Formation of the proletariat into a class, overthrow of bourgeois supremacy, conquest of political power by the proletariat. The theoretical conclusions of the Communists are in no way based on ideas or principles that have been invented or discovered by this or that would be universal reformer. They merely express in general terms actual relations springing from an existing class struggle from a historical movement going on under our very eyes. The abolition of existing property relations is not at all a distinctive feature of Communism."

Present at the November 17, 1947 meeting of the Chelsea Club were [redacted] and three other people unknown to the informant.

[redacted] stated, "We must take security measures from now on. We must not leave any papers with names and addresses laying around." [redacted] then advised that the section would have a meeting soon in order to obtain new leadership. He advised that, "JOHN LAUTNER is no longer with us. He was 'loaned' to us by the county."

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Confidential Informant T-19 advised on December 6, 1947 that GEORGE BLAKE-GHARNEY of the New York County Communist Party Headquarters sent the following telegram to several people on September 16, 1947:

**"ESSENTIAL ALL CLUB MEETINGS TONIGHT AND TOMORROW BE COVERED WITH TICKETS FOR THE GARDEN MEETING."**

Among those receiving the telegram was JOHN LAUTNER, c/o Chelsea, 269 West 25th Street, New York City.

On October 21, 1947, Confidential Informant T-17 advised that the subject's name appeared on a list of Community Sections of the New York County CP showing individuals to be called in each section. Opposite LAUTNER'S name appeared "S.O. County". It is believed that S.O. represents Section Organizer.

On February 2, 1948, Confidential Informant T-17 advised that GEORGE BLAKE, County Executive Secretary, CP, New York County, had been advised by an individual, unknown to the informant, that [redacted] had submitted charges against him, and that [redacted] and JOHN LAUTNER were assigned to investigate. The nature of the charges against [redacted] was not known.

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On February 20, 1948, Confidential Informant T-20 advised that ISADORE BEGUN, chairman of the Bronx County CP, had received a letter dated February 12, 1948 from [redacted] to remind him that as chairman of the Preliminary Committee set up in preparation for the State Committee meeting, he is to meet with the Committee to bring forward proposals on the "Daily Worker" to be submitted to the State Committee. Members of the Preliminary Committee are:

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JOHN LAUTNER  
[redacted]

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On April 23, 1948, Confidential Informant T-21 advised that the subject still resides at 212 West 22nd Street, New York City.

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On May 13, 1948, Confidential Informant T-10 advised that an unidentified woman told the subject on that date that he should go to Dr. BARSKY on Tuesday at 3:00 PM and that it would cost him \$125.00 for nine days. According to the informant, the subject was contemplating a gallstone operation. The Dr. BARSKY mentioned above is probably identical with Dr. EDWARD K. BARSKY, who is national chairman of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, which is located at 192 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

On May 28, 1948, Confidential Informant T-17 advised that the subject is an employee of the New York State Communist Party and that his net pay for the week ending May 22, 1948 amounted to \$52.50.

The following background data on the subject, which was taken from information contained in his Army Service Record, on file at the DPRB, World War II Unit, AGO, St. Louis, Missouri, was furnished this office by the St. Louis Office via the Bureau and Pittsburgh Office.

Name and Service No.	JOHN LAUTNER, ASN 32622865
Address at time of Discharge	212 W. 22nd St., New York, New York
Address at time of Induction	same as above
Inducted through LB #19 at	New York, New York on 11/16/42
Date and Place of Birth	1/1/02, Polanok Seclo, Czechoslovakia
Social Security No.	072-18-7594
Civilian Occupation	Executive Secretary for insurance organization
Military Occupation	Translator
Foreign Service	2 years, 10 days
Battles and Campaigns	Naples - Foggia
Date and Place of Discharge	6/20/45, Ft. Dix, New Jersey
Highest Rank held	Technician Fourth Grade

A check was made of the files of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York for the names of the subject and [redacted] but no record was found. The only LAUTNER listed in the current (May, 1948) Manhattan Telephone Directory is [redacted] 212 West 22nd Street, telephone WA 9-5243.

The records of the Board of Elections for New York County were checked by SE [redacted] who found that in 1942 the subject registered as an American Laborite. His registration record indicated he had furnished his residence as 212 West 22nd Street, and his employment as International Workers Order [redacted] Ave. The record indicated that the subject had been

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two years in the state, two years in the county, one year in the Election District at that time and that he had last registered in 1938 while living on Boardman Road, Youngstown, Ohio.

No registration was found for subject [ ] for the years 1943-1946. In 1947, the subject again registered as an American Laborite [ ]

The Election Board records indicated that the subject was naturalized in July, 1926 in the Court of Common Pleas, at Youngstown, Ohio. The writer also checked the current registration records at PS #11, 314 West 21st Street, which covered the address of the subject, but no additional information was noted. Neither the subject nor [ ] furnished any information as to his [ ] occupation.

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Under suitable pretext the writer called the offices of the International Workers Order, 80 Fifth Avenue, and the young lady who answered the call was able to advise, after making inquiries, that the subject had not been employed by the IWO for about two years.

Confidential Informant T-22 advised that the subject is a member of the New York State Review Commission of the Communist Party, 5th Floor, 35 East 12th Street, New York City. Part of his present duties consist of investigating charges against party members.

The following description of the subject was obtained from his Army Service record, the "Fraternal Outlook", the files of Local Draft Board #19, New York City, the records of the Board of Elections for New York County and Confidential Informant T-22:

Name	JOHN LAUTNER, wa., John Lottner
Race	White
Birth	January 1, 1902, Polanok, Seclo, Czechoslovakia
Height	5'8"
Weight	158 lbs.
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Brown
Citizenship	United States; entered U.S. in 1903 at the age of one; naturalized in July, 1926, Court of Common Pleas, Youngstown, Ohio

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Army Serial No. 32622865  
Social Security No. 072-18-7594  
Employment Member of New York State Review Commission,  
Communist Party, 5th Floor, 35 East 12th  
Street, New York City  
Residence Apartment 4P, 212 West 22nd Street, N.Y.C.  
Telephone WA 9-5243  
Relatives Wife, [redacted] same address  
Mother, MARY LAUTNER, Wilson Avenue,  
Youngstown, Ohio  
Sister, [redacted]

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- C L O S E D -

NY 100-16516

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of SA [redacted]  
[redacted] at New York, dated November 18, 1948, are as follows:

T-1 [redacted] of the Huntington Office.  
T-2 DIO - 3ND  
T-3 [redacted] of the Indianapolis Office.  
T-4 MIS, Washington, D.C.  
T-5 Represents the surveillance of STEVE NELSON by agents of this office.  
T-6 Trash cover on IWO Headquarters, 80 Fifth Avenue, NYC.  
T-7 [redacted]  
T-8 [redacted]  
T-9 [redacted]  
T-10 NYT - 26  
T-11 [redacted]  
T-12 An informant known to agents of this office. [redacted]  
[redacted] to the office of  
BELLA V. BODD, 100 West 42nd Street, New York City.  
T-13 [redacted]  
T-14 [redacted]  
T-15 A surveillance conducted by agents of this office on STEVE NELSON.  
T-16 A summary of information furnished by NYM - 169, NYT - 25 and NYT - 26.  
T-17 ND - 426  
T-18 [redacted]  
T-19 [redacted]  
T-20 [redacted]  
T-21 NYT - 25  
T-22 [redacted]

Informants whose symbol numbers are known to the Bureau were given temporary symbols in order to further protect their identity.

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-20-2005

100-16177

December 9, 1948

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Special Agent in Charge

New York, New York

RE: SECURITY MATTER

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that a security index card has been prepared at the Bureau, captioned as follows:

LAUTNER, JOHN  
Alias: John Lottner

NATURALIZED

COMMUNIST

Res: Apartment 4P, 212 West 22nd Street,  
New York City

Bus: c/o Communist Party, New York State,  
5th Floor, 35 East 12th Street,  
New York City

The above caption should be checked immediately for accuracy against the information contained in your files, and the Bureau should be informed of any discrepancies. You will prepare without delay a 5" x 8" white card captioned as above and reflecting your investigative case file number for filing in your Confidential Security Index Card File. In the event the above caption is not correct, the card you prepare should be correctly captioned, and the Bureau should be informed of the correct caption.

The caption of the card prepared and filed in your Office must be kept current at all times and the Bureau immediately advised of any changes made therein in that connection.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

JEM:mo

100-16177-29



cc: Mr. Milnes

SAC, New York

December 8, 1948

Director, FBI

JOHN LAUTNER, wa.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
Bureau File No. 100-16177  
Your File No. 100-16516

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Report of Special Agent  (Accountant), New York  
City, New York, dated 11-18-48.

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In view of the extensive efforts on the part of this subject  
on behalf of the Communist Party, it is suggested that you consider  
designating this subject as a key figure.

JEM:esb

RECORDED - 7

100-16177-29

F B I

DEC 14 1948

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: March 30, 1949

FROM : SAC, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDSUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER, wa.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(Bureau File 100-16177)DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

In view of the extensive activities on the part of this subject in behalf of the Communist Party, he is being considered a Key Figure in this office.

A current report reflecting his recent activities will be submitted to reach the Bureau not later than April 18, 1949.

ABC/tm  
100-16516EX-47  
RECORDED - 52

100-16177-30

68 APR 28 1949

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC

FEDERAL TAM/MLT/CLS

ON

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 100-16516 ADV

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 6/7/49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/20, 21, 26; 5/18/49	REPORT MADE BY ADRIAN B. CLARK
----------------------------	--------------------------	--	-----------------------------------

TITLE

CHANGED  
JOHN LAUTNER, was.

CHARACTER OF CASE

INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

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Subject and wife continue residence at 212 West 22nd Street, NYC, and subject employed as member of the NY State Review Commission of the CP, 35 East 12th Street, NYC. Duties consist of investigating charges against Party members. He has recently been connected with the investigation of [redacted] on charges of anti-Party activity. Subject and wife active in West Virginia from Jan. 14, 1949 to Jan. 28, 1949, organizing and building up the Party, according to informant.

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-16177  
Report of SA [redacted] (A), 11/18/48, New York

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being marked changed to add the subject's alias, JOHN LAUTNER, which name was obtained through information supplied by Pittsburgh [redacted]

On February 28, 1948, Confidential Informant T-1 advised that the subject is a member of the Preliminary Committee setup in preparation for the New York State Convention. He served on this commission with [redacted]

On September 14, 1948, Confidential Informant T-2 advised that the subject who resided at 212 West 22nd Street, Apartment 4P,

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Edward Schmitt</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED 1/23/68		100-16177-31	SE 28
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		RECORDED - 121	INDEXED - 121
⑥ Bureau 1 Col. WILLIAM MAYER, GSC, G-2, [redacted] 1 Capt. D. C. HAMBERGER, DIO [redacted] 3 New York		[redacted]	

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New York City, was corresponding with the Hungarian Club, 809 Westchester Avenue, Bronx, New York.

On September 20, 1948, Confidential Informant T-3 advised of a conference between [redacted] West Midtown Section Organizer, and [redacted]. At that time, [redacted] was advised that the Party was investigating charges against her and that she should quietly drop out of the Party. When [redacted] requested more information concerning the charges and stated that she intended to fight the same, she was advised by [redacted] to see JOHN LAUTNER, whom she said was a member of the State Security Commission. [redacted] was advised that the actual charges against her would not be revealed nor would she be given a trial.

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On January 6, 1949, Confidential Informant T-3 advised that on October 24, 1948, [redacted] JOHN LAUTNER and [redacted] who was identified by the informant as an old friend of [redacted] New York State Review Commission, had a discussion concerning a letter written by [redacted] dealing with the anti-Party charges made against her. [redacted] stated that she would get faster action if the letter written by [redacted] were directed to the West Midtown Section Committee with copies to County Committee and the State Review Commission. The informant stated that [redacted] delivered the above discussed letter on October 13, 1948.

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On January 7, 1949 Confidential Informant T-3 advised that on September 23, 1948, [redacted] had a discussion concerning the above mentioned anti-Party charges made against [redacted]. According to the informant, [redacted] about the actions of [redacted] [redacted] in their two charges being made against [redacted] that she is a security risk to the Communist Party and that these people have refused her a fair trial and have refused to bring or name witnesses or proof of this charge against her and have refused to further discuss the matter. [redacted] became angry and said "It's an example of the rotten bureaucratic leadership of our Party," and she further said it makes her sick to think that she may go to jail for such characters as the national leaders. According to the informant [redacted] was subpoenaed to appear before the Federal Grand Jury that month and refused to answer any questions. The informant stated that [redacted] told [redacted] that she personally knows many "rats in the Party that should have been expelled long ago, but instead have become leaders in the Party." [redacted] also said that since no one in the Party knows of her FBI and Grand Jury investigations except [redacted] [redacted] has been advised

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to see JOHN LAUTNER of the State Security Commission and report fully on her FBI and Grand Jury encounter. The informant stated that this advice was given by [redacted] and who would be reprimanded severely by the Party if she failed to disclose to the Security Commission any pertinent fact bearing on the internal security of the Communist Party. [redacted] told [redacted] that when she discussed her own problem with LAUTNER she would also discuss [redacted] and will threaten to make a "big stink" unless the charges be dropped against [redacted] or she be given her constitutional right of the trial.

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[redacted] On January 24, 1949, Confidential Informant T-3 stated that on October 24, 1948 had visited JOHN LAUTNER, 35 East 12th Street, New York City to discuss the charges which had been made against her. [redacted] was present at the interview. A discussion ensued as to why [redacted] had been dropped as Branch Organizer after serving the Party for seven years. LAUTNER stated that the charges and complainant would be kept secret and that [redacted] would be considered a full member until the committee proves the conduct detrimental to Party membership.

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On January 10, 1949, Confidential Informant T-4 advised that JOHN LAUTNER and [redacted] had been scheduled to go to West Virginia in an attempt to build up the Communist Party District 22.

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On January 14, 1949, the informant stated that LAUTNER had arrived from New York in West Virginia and was staying with [redacted] who was [redacted] the Communist Party District 22. The informant added that LAUTNER and [redacted] were in Fairmont, West Virginia in an attempt to build up the Party in that area.

On January 28, 1949, this informant further advised that LAUTNER spent considerable time in Fairmont and that he learned there that the people do not like [redacted] and will not register in the Communist Party so long as [redacted] is in control of that district. The informant stated that on January 28, 1949 LAUTNER returned to New York City.

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It should be noted that the [redacted] name has been reported to this office by various informants as [redacted]. Further efforts in the future will be directed to identifying the [redacted]. The following informants were contacted, but were unable to furnish specific information concerning the [redacted] Confidential Informants [redacted]

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The records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York were checked

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concerning the subject and [redacted] with negative results.

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Confidential Informant T-5 stated that JOHN LAUTNER's name appeared on the attendance record of a general executive board meeting of the International Workers Order held on June 27, 1942 at New York City and that Mr. and Mrs. JOHN LAUTNER attended a testimonial banquet given in honor of WILLIAM WEINER by the general executive board of the International Workers Order on July 3, 1941. (It is believed by the informant that WEINER is identical with WELWEL WARZOWER, prominent Communist Party member employed by the New Century Publishing Company of New York.)

Confidential Informant T-6, a source of well established reliability, stated that the subject as JOHN LAUTNER alias JOHN LOTTNER was a candidate for presidential election on the Communist Party ticket on a petition submitted to the public in West Virginia for the November, 1940 election.

P E N D I N G

NY 100-16516

LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will ascertain [redacted] first name and furnish it to all interested offices in the next regular report on the subject's activities.

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Will report further evidences of the subject's Communist Party affiliations.

NY 100-16516

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of AURIAN B. CLARK, dated June 7, 1949, at New York, New York, are:

T-1

[REDACTED]

T-2

ND 426

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T-3

[REDACTED]

T-4

[REDACTED]

T-5

Records of ONI furnished to SA  
J. J. MC KENNA 4/21/49

T-6

Records of G-2 furnished to the  
New York Office.





United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

New York 7, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ON 10-20-2005

July 1, 1949

Director, FBI

RE: DETCOM  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

JOHN LAUTNER, was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

For your information the above captioned individual on whom a Security Index card has been prepared by this office has been designated for priority attention in the event of an emergency necessitating apprehension of persons listed in the Security Index inasmuch as he is considered a key figure in this office.

It is suggested that the Bureau also tab its card on the subject.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*  
EDWARD SCHEIDT,  
SAC

cc: NY 100-16516

RECORDED - 98

JMF:MJT  
100-90409

100-16177-32

ATTN: SECT.

DIRECTOR, FBI

SAC, PITTSBURGH

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA - BRIEF  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-6-84 BY 8972 TOK/HCB

7/28/49

Re New York teletypes to Pittsburgh, 7/22/49, entitled "CPUSA, Brief, ISC, JOHN LAUTNER, was. John Lottner, Laughtner," pertinent contents of which are being set out:

"LAUTNER potential defense witness was CP candidate for presidential elector, West Virginia, November, 1940, and petition submitted to place CP on ballot. Submit immediately to New York Office photostatic copy of this petition. Also forward certified photostatic copy registration record, Motor Vehicle Registration Bureau, which indicated LAUTNER registered 1937 Chevrolet sedan, Motor No. 18-1185315, in West Virginia for 1941."

In subsequent New York teletype, same date, "Re Huntington letter to Bureau, May 2, 1941 pertaining to information furnished by [redacted] of Huntington Office, relet states informant furnished press release of the National Committee, CP, USA, dated July 7, 1938, sent to 'Charleston Gazette,' Charleston, W. Va., which listed LAUTNER as State Secretary, CP of West Virginia. Pittsburgh is requested to furnish BFO a certified photostatic copy of this press release."

Forwarded herewith for the New York Office is a certified photostatic copy of a petition to place the CP on the ballot for the presidential election in West Virginia for 1940 and containing the name JOHN LAUTNER. [redacted] of the State of West Virginia, certified the photostat to be a true and correct copy. Also being forwarded to the New York Office are the following photostatic copies certified by [redacted] Department of Motor Vehicles of West Virginia.

1. Certificate of Title of a Motor Vehicle, issued to [redacted] 4/20/39
2. Assignment of Title to JOHN LAUTNER, issued 4/27/39
3. Application for a Certificate of Title by JOHN LAUTNER, 5/2/39
4. Assignment of Certificate of Title by JOHN LAUTNER, 1/28/41

Efforts to locate a press release as set out in referenced New York teletype were unavailing. [redacted] the "Charleston Gazette," Charleston, W. Va., stated that press release copies are kept on file for only a few weeks and then destroyed. Microfilm copies of the "Gazette" were reviewed for the period July 6 through August 7, 1938, and

cc: New York (REGISTERED - AMSD) (Encl.)  
PG 100-9396  
LEN:ELK  
100-8527

100-117  
NOT RECORDED  
28 AUG 1 1949

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-9396-4107

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DIRECTOR, FBI

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7/26/49

nothing pertinent was noted concerning LUCENER or the Cp. Also, records of the "Charleston Daily Mail" were reviewed with negative results.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Form No. 3

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. 100-16516 MJS

REPORT MADE AT: <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>AUG 18 1949</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <b>7/20-22, 25-29; 8/1, 2/49</b>	REPORT MADE BY: <b>ADRIAN B. CLARK</b>
TITLE: <b>JOHN LAUTNER, was., John Lottner, John Laughtner</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE: <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**P\***

*you*

JOHN LAUTNER is a member of the New York State Review Commission of the Communist Party and was formerly an instructor at the Jefferson School of Social Science. He was born January 1, 1902 at Polanok, Szelo, Czechoslovakia. He entered the United States in 1903 and was naturalized at Youngstown, Ohio in July, 1926. He resides at 212 West 22nd Street with [redacted]

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**ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE**

Selective Service Local Board 19, 250 Eighth Avenue, New York City

The files of the Selective Service Office indicated that the subject, as JOHN LAUTNER, was inducted November 9, 1942 at the United States Army Induction Station, Grand Central Palace, New York City, and was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey. His occupation was listed on September 15, 1942, as "Secretary of Fraternal Sick and Death Benefit Organization known as the International Workers Order, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York City." His salary was \$42.00 a week and he had been employed on that job one year. His home address at this time was 212 West 22nd Street. His Social Security number was 072-18-7594. [redacted] in Jersey City, New Jersey, September 5, 1941.

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DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Edward Scheidt</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	100-16177-33	RECORDED AND INDEXED: RECORDED - 20
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED: 6 - Bureau 1 - USA, SDNY 3 - New York		BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION F B I DEPT. OF JUSTICE ROUTED TO: FILE	CHECKED OFF: INDEXED - 20 JACKETED: EX-62
COPIES DESTROYED 4/23/59 #16			

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LAUTNER was born January 1, 1902 at Polanok, Czclo, Czechoslovakia. He is a United States citizen and his mother is MARY LAUTNER who lives at Youngstown, Ohio.

Army Service Record, World War II Unit, AGO, St. Louis Missouri.

The subject's Army record, photostatic copies of which are maintained in this office, reflects the following information:

Name and Service No.	JOHN LAUTNER, ASN 32622865
Address:	212 West 22nd Street, New York.
Induction:	Through Local Board 19 at New York, New York, November 16, 1942.
Born:	January 1, 1902, Polanok, Seclo, Czechoslovakia.
Social Security number:	072-18-7594.
Civilian Occupation:	Executive Secretary for insurance organization.
Military Occupation:	Translator.
Foreign Service:	2 years, 10 days.
Campaigns:	Naples and Foggia
Discharge:	June 20, 1945, Fort Dix, New Jersey.
Highest Rank held:	Technician Fourth Grade.

Board of Elections, New York County, New York.

The records of this board indicate that in 1942 the subject registered for the American Labor Party. At this time he was employed by the International Workers Order, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York. These records indicate that he had resided two years in New York State, two years in New York County and one year in the election district at that time and that he had last registered in 1938 while living on Boardman Road, Youngstown, Ohio.

In 1947, the subject again registered as an American Laborite and stated he resided at the same address.

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These records indicated that the subject was naturalized in July, 1926 in the Court of Common Pleas, Youngstown, Ohio.

Naturalization Records, Youngstown, Ohio.

The records of the Court of Common Pleas, Youngstown, Ohio, as furnished to this office by [redacted] Clerk of the Courts, indicate that the subject, as JOHN LAUTNER, JR., on February 16, 1923, filed a Declaration of Intention number 10960. Petition for naturalization was issued May 27, 1926, number 6752. Certificate number of naturalization, 2261454.

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The information appearing on petition number 6752, is as follows:

Name: JOHN LAUTNER, JR.  
Address: 464 West Ravenwood Avenue,  
Youngstown, Ohio.  
Occupation: Bricklayer  
Born: January 1, 1902 at Polanok, Hungary  
Emigrated from Rotterdam, Holland on July 2, 1920.  
Arrived: New York, New York, July 14, 1920.  
Certificate  
of Arrival number: 96509.  
Under name of: JOHN LAUTNER, JR.  
Witnesses to  
Citizenship  
Declaration: [redacted]

Youngstown, Ohio

[redacted]  
Same address.

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The relationship of these two individuals to the subject was not indicated.

Confidential Informant T-1

This informant, of known reliability, made available to the New York Office, a photostatic copy of excerpts of a report given by the subject

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on work among the Hungarians to the Nationality Groups Commission on February 4, 1946. Pertinent parts of the above report are reported below.

During the first portion of this report, LAUTNER sets out the background of the Hungarian community in the United States and stated that in 1940, there were 662,068 people of Hungarian origin in the United States. He stated that half of the Hungarians are within a one-half mile radius of New York City.

The fraternal organizations to which these Hungarians belong, are broken into five main groups with various smaller organizations in some localities. According to LAUTNER, the most reactionary of these groups was known as the American-Hungarian Federation, while the more liberal groups were the International Workers Order and the Rakoczy.

He criticized the American-Hungarian Federation for not supporting the "Hungarian new democracy". He stated that the Federation consistently attacked the Red Army in Hungary and spread the most unbelievable lies against the Soviet Union and its role in Hungary.

LAUTNER then proceeded to discuss the election results of the recent Hungarian election. He stated that the results of the election were really not a setback to the Communist Party as most people believe but that they showed a definite trend towards popularity on the part of the Communist Party.

LAUTNER discussed the American-Hungarian Relief Program and stated that at the present time, this program was under the domination of reformist ministers and reactionary leadership. He further stated that the Catholic priests have their own relief activities which is being used as a political weapon against democratic Hungary.

LAUTNER then proceeded to discuss the various newspapers in the United States which are in the Hungarian language or deal mainly with Hungarian problems. He discussed briefly the American-Hungarian Democratic Council which he stated, "is composed of prominent Hungarian individuals who are well known for their opposition to the Horthy Regime which served to check and counteract the American-Hungarian Federation."

He then discussed the building of the Party and getting recruits for the Communist Party among the Hungarian group. He stated in June, 1939, there were about 600 Hungarian members of the Communist Party in the United States but who were generally active in work among the Hungarians. At about

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this time, he stated 400 of these Comrades were dropped from the ranks for non-qualification. He stated, "Recently we tried in Chicago and New York (to build the Party). In Chicago we found forty-eight Hungarian Party members on the basis of last year's registration. What is interesting is that out of the forty-eight, only twelve were found active in Hungarian work. The rest were doing general Party work. Some of the Comrades made valuable contributions in the general work of the Party."

He concluded the report by stating, "The national leadership must immediately carry on an energetic campaign of recruiting especially in cities like Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Bridgeport and Trenton where large numbers of Hungarian workers participated in the strikes and where meetings were called and finally aid given to the strikers. At the same time, steps shall be taken to assign Comrades to conduct seminars in these cities with Party members and distribute the large number of classical literature in the Hungarian language, that is available. We urge the Party committees to give aid and guides, especially in the large Hungarian communities, to this National group by setting up Party groups or branches that will concentrate on Party work in these communities. This will be a real step in developing new cadres and leaders, the lack of whom are at present one of the sore spots in our work."

Confidential Informant T-2

This informant, of known reliability, also furnished a copy of the above material to the agents of the Washington Field Office.

The "Daily Worker"  
January 30, 1946

On page 6 of this paper in the column "Letters from our Readers", the subject contributed a letter which was quoted under the caption, "Sees Hopeful Picture in Hungary". LAUTNER'S letter is quoted in part as follows:

"JOSEPH STAROBIN'S article 'Mr. BYRNES' Trip to Moscow', leaves the impression that the elections in Hungary were a major defeat for the democratic forces as in Austria. I believe he is wrong for the following reasons: After 25 long years of reaction and fascism in Hungary, where Communists were jailed and hanged, where the Communist Party was outlawed, they elected 71 deputies to the Hungarian Parliament in this election...Of



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course reaction is not dead in Hungary. Remnants remain. Strong forces outside the country endanger the growing new democracy, but I think it was a mistake to lump Hungary together with Austria as examples of the defeat of progress as this article said."

Confidential Informant T-3

This informant, of known reliability, advised that about January, 1940, he met JOHN LAUTNER at a social gathering in West Virginia and LAUTNER told him there were 235 dues paying members of the Communist Party in West Virginia and that he, LAUTNER, was the only paid organizer assigned to the State of West Virginia. His pay was \$10.00 weekly which was furnished to him from New York City.

Confidential Informant T-4

This informant, of known reliability, furnished information to the Pittsburgh Office that a press release had been sent by the National Committee of the Communist Party, USA on July 7, 1938 to the Charleston Gazette of Charleston, West Virginia. This release was in a form of a memo to the city editors and advised that request for specific information concerning the Communist Party in specific locations should be addressed to the various State Headquarters of the Communist Party. It included among State Secretaries, JOHN LAUTNER, Box 92, Charleston, West Virginia, State Secretary of the Communist Party of West Virginia.

Confidential Informant T-5

This informant, of known reliability, can testify that the subject was District Organizer of the Communist Party for West Virginia prior to January 17, 1941.

Confidential Informant T-6

This informant, of known reliability, furnished information to the Indianapolis Office that JOHN LAUTNER was one of three men appointed

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to replace HERBERT BENJAMIN, National Executive Secretary of the International Workers Order on July 18, 1942, when BENJAMIN resigned to take a job with the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant, T-9

This informant, of known reliability, stated that the International Workers Order has consistently followed the Communist Party line. This informant stated that when [redacted] resigned in December, 1941, from his position as National Secretary of the Hungarian Section of the International Workers Order, he was replaced by JOHN LAUTNER, who, according to the informant, was a member of the Communist Party.

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Confidential Informant T-7

This informant, of known reliability, furnished information to Special Agents of the Washington Field Office to the effect that JOHN LAUTNER was National Director of the Hungarian Language Group of the International Workers Order on July 14, 1942.

Confidential Informant T-8

This informant, of known reliability, reported on July 18, 1945, that the subject at a membership meeting of the Chelsea Club of the Communist Party of America, held on that date, was nominated as a delegate to the New York State Convention of the Communist Party to be held on July 21 and 22, 1945.

This informant also stated that on July 19, 1946, the subject's name appeared on a list of the members of the Chelsea Club of the Communist Party. This informant also stated that LAUTNER attended meetings of the Chelsea Club on the following dates:

August 19 and August 23, 1947  
September 9, 19, 22, 26 and 30, 1947  
October 3 and October 13, 1947  
November 17, 1947.

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According to this informant, on September 19, 1947, LAUTNER conducted a three session seminar held on September 19, September 26 and October 3, 1947, which seminar pertained to strategy and tactics of the Party.

At the first session held on September 19, 1947, LAUTNER stated, "In this first session, we will take up DIMITROFF'S report of the 74th Congress; the German and Italian Communists and the Communists in other countries as well as the Communist youth have displayed prodigies of valor. They have made and are making daily tremendous sacrifices. We all bow our heads in honor of such heroism and sacrifice, but that is not enough. Heroism must be combined with day-to-day work among the masses. In our struggle against fascist dictatorship, it is particularly dangerous to confuse the wish with the fact. We must base ourselves on the facts, on the actual, concrete situation. We can lead the masses to a decisive struggle for the overthrow of fascist dictatorship only by getting the workers who have been forced into fascist organizations or who have joined them through ignorance."

The second session of the three session seminar was held at the Chelsea Club on September 26, 1947 and again LAUTNER was the instructor. He stated, "We will take up DIMITROFF'S 'United Front and the Youth'. In speaking of the youth we must state plainly we have neglected our tasks of throwing the masses of the toiling youth into the struggle against the offensive of capital, against fascism and the danger of war. We have neglected these tasks in a number of countries. We have overestimated the enormous importance of the youth in the fight against fascism. We have not always taken count of the specific economic, political and cultural interests of the youth. We have not paid proper attention to revolutionary education of the youth."

"Our youth here in the section has dropped below par. The same goes for the youth of the country. We have been negligent in helping the youth with their programs. The youth branch in our section needs the help of adult comrades. We should make it a point to help them with their street meetings and leaflet distributions."

The concluding session of the seminar on the strategy and tactics of the United Front was held at the Chelsea Club on October 3, 1947. LAUTNER was again the instructor and opened the meeting with quotes from the "Communist Manifesto". He then stated, "In what relation do the Communists stand to the Proletarians as a whole? The Communists do not form a separate party opposed to other working class parties. They have no interests separate and apart from those of the Proletarians as a whole. They do not set up

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any sectarian principles of their own by which to shape and mold the proletarian movement. The Communists are distinguished from the other working class parties by this only:

"1. In the national struggle of the Proletarians of the different countries they point out and bring to the front the common interest of the entire proletariat indemnity of all nationality.

"2. In the various stages of development which the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie has to pass through they always and everywhere represent the interests of the movement as a whole. The Communists therefore are on the one hand practically the most advanced and resolute section of the working class parties of every country, that section which pushes forward all others.

"On the other hand, theoretically, they have over the great mass of the proletariat, the advantage at clearly understanding the line of movement. The immediate aim of the Communists is the same as that of all other proletarian parties. Formation of the proletariat into a class, overthrow of bourgeois supremacy, conquest of political power by the proletariat. The theoretical conclusions of the Communists are in no way based on ideas or principles that have been invented or discovered by this or that would be universal reformer. They merely express in general terms actual relations springing from an existing class struggle from a historical movement going on under our very eyes. The abolition of existing property relations is not at all a distinctive feature of Communism."

Confidential Informant T-8

This informant, of known reliability, also stated on October 1, 1947, that on September 30, 1947, LAUTNER was the main speaker at a membership meeting held at the Chelsea Club. The main topic of his speech was Elections and Registration. Pertaining to a high cost of living demonstration which was to take place on Wednesday, October 1, 1947, at 393 Seventh Avenue, New York City, LAUTNER stated that mothers should bring their children to make the demonstration more impressive. Sections should furnish sound trucks although LAUTNER stated that if the police did not allow sound trucks, the demonstration would take place without sound.

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Confidential Informant T-11

This informant, of known reliability, advised that from July 21 to July 27, 1947, a six day training school, sponsored by the Communist Party of New York County, was held at the Jefferson School of Social Science.

At the fourth session of this school, the students were instructed by JOHN LAUTNER concerning Strategy and Tactics of the Communist Party. One of his remarks was, "Remember to tell them (all recruits) that those that do the work should be the ones to receive ownership of the raw materials and of the means of production. There are millions that do not understand this but fight for a trade union, higher wages, shorter hours, etc. These are very right for our work, nevertheless. Our main objective to socialism, therefore, is to line up all these factions and to unite them in one main force."

On July 27, 1947, the last session was held at which meeting LAUTNER stated, "The two parties (Democratic and Republican) are both for the capitalist. When the workers get tired of one of them the capitalists give them the other. Where we have Proportional Representation, it is much safer for groups such as the Communist Party to have a say in the government. The workers need only one party because they have one and only one objective (overthrowing of capitalism), therefore, they only need the Communist Party, but it would be a serious mistake to try to become a third party under that name, therefore (we need) a third party of another front. Most of the socialists under DEBBS came over to the Communist Party when it was formed prior to World War I."

In response to a question as to whether the Communist Party was the first Party, LAUTNER stated, "Yes, that is why we cannot have the Socialist Party with us--only those socialists who accept the program of our party. As Lenin said, the Communist Party is the advance guard. When the hundreds are organized, their power is multiplied tenfold over the thousands unorganized."

"Also, we must be leaders in the daily fight of the workers towards a socialistic form of government."

"We must have a revolutionary period and a revolutionary theory. Because the capitalists are in the way, we will not give way. The more we have these, the faster we will gain our goal. Only the Communist Party has these theories and not those of collaborationists."

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"A Communist must know what is going on in his district, shops, industries, and create struggle in them. That is the only essential difference from the party under BROWDER. He tried to dull and reduce the fighting ability of the Communist Party. All of us should be on guard against that thinking and if found, route it out. With about fifty or sixty exceptions in New York State, all comrades must belong to basic organizations and be active."

Confidential Informant T-12

This informant, of known reliability, advised on December 6, 1947, that GEORGE BLAKE CHARNEY, who is Executive Secretary of the New York County Communist Party, had arranged a conference with LAUTNER on Communist Party business, to be held September 16, 1947.

Confidential Informant T-13

This informant, of known reliability, on December 29, 1945, furnished a list of members of the Yorkville Club of the Communist Party. LAUTNER'S name was included on the list. This informant also stated that on October 4 and 5, 1946, he observed JOHN LAUTNER in attendance at an American Labor Party Club meeting, which was held at 226 East 86th Street, New York City.

This informant further stated on October 27, 1946 that LAUTNER addressed a meeting of the HERMAN BOTTSCHER Club of the Communist Party on October 24, 1946 at the Yorkville Casino. The informant stated that at this meeting, the subject addressed a group on the "Growth of Democracy in the Balkans."

This same informant on December 6, 1946, stated that the subject attended an election rally held at the Yorkville Casino sponsored by the HERMAN BOTTSCHER Club of the Communist Party. LAUTNER addressed a group as a member of the Hungarian concentration group and spoke of the growth of democracy in the Balkans and especially Hungaria. He said the party of Hungaria now has a membership of over 600,000 and that only a few years back around 1940, the membership was only about 3,500. He said this is all through the people's own volition and that the Soviet Union and the Red Army has done no urging whatsoever on this issue.

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LAUTNER then went on to our current elections in the United States and the need of defeating monopoly capital in its cry for a new war wherein they can again make large profits at the expense of the worker. He said, according to the informant, that we must defeat reaction at home as represented by DEWEY, POWELL and COLLINS. He also spoke of the need of comrades and all our sympathizers doing their utmost in the campaign first to insure a big vote for our Communist Party and second to elect candidates of the progressive labor coalition.

Confidential Informant T-14

This informant, of known reliability, stated that the subject in November of 1948, was a member of the New York State Review Commission of the Communist Party and that part of his duties was to investigate disloyal or anti-Party charges against members of the Communist Party.

This informant also stated on November 9, 1948, that LAUTNER had told [redacted] that he was considering her trial of party charges and that he would discuss it with [redacted] on September 21, 1948. This informant stated that [redacted] visited LAUTNER at his office at 35 East 12th Street, at which time she discussed her coming trial with LAUTNER.

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[redacted] outlined to LAUTNER and [redacted] of the Lower West Side, her party background and demanded that she be given a fair trial.

LAUTNER told her that since there was no accurate evidence to support the charges made against her, that she should go back to her branch and she would be considered a full member of the party unless the investigating committee, which consisted solely of [redacted] could prove charges detrimental to party membership against [redacted]

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This informant stated on March 3, 1949, that on that date, [redacted] and LAUTNER had conferred concerning the anti-Party charges made against [redacted]. LAUTNER questioned [redacted] concerning her work in the party, the length of time she had been a member, her attitude towards the party and the party leadership since her trial and asked her opinion on the quality of the section leadership.

This informant on March 8, 1949, stated that LAUTNER attended a meeting of the Industrial Conference of the Communist Party, held on

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March 5, 1949 at the Hotel Diplomat, New York City.

Confidential Informant T-15

This informant, of known reliability, advised Special Agents of the Pittsburgh Office on January 10, 1949, that JOHN LAUTNER, a Communist Party Organizer from New York City, was scheduled to come to West Virginia in a tour to build up the party membership in Communist Party District number twenty-two.

The informant stated that LAUTNER was in West Virginia previously and that he was the only comrade from New York who had **done** a good job in organizing and building up the Communist Party in District number twenty-two.

On January 14, 1949, this informant stated that LAUTNER had arrived from New York and was staying with [REDACTED] Communist Party District number twenty-two.

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The informant stated that LAUTNER and [REDACTED] were in Fairmont, West Virginia in an attempt to build up the party in that area. In January 28, 1949, this informant stated that LAUTNER had returned to New York City.



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Material of Doubtful Admissibility For Use in  
Possible Cross Examination

"In Order"

This publication, which is published by the National Executive Committee of the International Workers Order, stated in the November, 1942 issue, that JOHN LAUTNER was a member of the following sub-committees of the National Executive Committee:

1. Native-born; National Clubs.
2. Membership; Order Building.

"Fraternal Outlook"

The "Fraternal Outlook" is an official publication of the International Workers Order, Inc. In the issue of May, 1942, there appears an article entitled, "New Leaders--New Roles", concerning several prominent leaders in the International Workers Order. Accompanying a picture of LAUTNER are the following comments:

"Steel, bricks, coal and men have been the materials with which JOHN LAUTNER has worked in his span of forty years as bricklayer, pipe-cutter in the Youngstown steel mills and labor organizer in Michigan, West Virginia and other states. He joined the order (International Workers Order) in 1932. On February 1, 1942, he became National Secretary of the Hungarian-American Section."

In the "Fraternal Outlook" for April, 1943, an article entitled, "We Salute", pertained to LAUTNER. A picture showed LAUTNER dressed in a United States Army uniform.

In the "Fraternal Outlook" for December, 1942, in an article captioned, "Off to War", the following information was set forth:

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"JOHN LAUTNER, National Secretary of the Hungarian-American Section (IWO) now a Private in the Army, happily accepts the gift of a sweater from DAVE GREENE, New York District Secretary, on behalf of the National Servicemen's Welfare Committee.....LAUTNER, long an active labor leader, assumed his IWO post in February, 1942, prepared to take battle post in November. Born in East Hungary, he came to the United States in 1903 at the age of one, worked here in Ohio steel mills and as a bricklayer--always a fighter for justice---LAUTNER knows only the United Nations can preserve the independence of America and bring freedom to his land of origin now under the Axis heel."

In the "Fraternal Order" for August, 1943, JOHN LAUTNER was referred to as National Secretary of the Hungarian Section of the International Workers Order, Language Groups, which at that time had 11,583 members.

"Magyar Jovo"

In the Hungarian Language newspaper, "Magyar Jovo" dated August 1, 1942, the subject was listed as a speaker before the "Hungarian Radio Program" yearly picnic. LAUTNER is listed as Secretary of the Hungarian Division of the International Workers Order, and representing the "Magyar Jovo".

In his speech before this group, LAUTNER demanded an immediate second front. The same newspaper in the August 6 and 8 issues, 1942, an announcement was made that LAUTNER would speak at "Fords Peoples Celebration" to be held August 9, 1942 at Fords Park, Fords, New Jersey, under the auspices of the International Workers Order, Hungarian Branch.

"Daily Worker"

The "Daily Worker" for November 1, 1948, on page 5, listed JOHN LAUTNER as among a list of approximately 350 people who had signed a letter to President TRUMAN and Attorney General CLARK, demanding as World War II veterans, immediate dismissal of indictments against the twelve members of the National Committee of the Communist Party.

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Confidential Informant T-16

This informant, of known reliability, on March 31, 1947, stated that the subject was a Section Organizer of the Building Trades, American Federation of Labor.

This same informant on September 24, 1947, advised that the subject was a member of the New York County Executive Committee.

Confidential Informant T-16 advised on February 2, 1948, that GEORGE BLAKE CHARNEY had indicated that the subject was a member of the Review Commission of the Communist Party and was investigating charges brought against [REDACTED] LAUTNER was serving on this committee with [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

This informant on May 28, 1948, furnished information to the effect that the subject was employed and paid by the New York State Communist Party and that his weekly salary was \$52.20.

Confidential Informant T-17

This informant, of known reliability, on February 20, 1948, was a member of a preliminary committee set up in preparation for the State Committee Communist Party meeting. Other members of this committee were, [REDACTED]

b6  
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Confidential Informant T-18

This informant, of known reliability, stated that JOHN LAUTNER'S name appeared on a list of names of those from New York City who attended the National Committee Plenum of the Communist Party, USA, Hotel Diplomat, New York City, on December 3, 4 and 5, 1946.

Confidential Informant T-19

This informant, of known reliability, on June 22, 1945, stated

NY 100-16516

that JOHN LAUTNER had an appointment to meet with JOHN WILLIAMSON, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party and Secretary of the Labor Department of the Communist Party, on June 23, 1945. This informant was unable, however, to verify the consummation of this appointment.

This informant also was in a position to advise on February 8, 1946, that JOHN LAUTNER contacted STEVE NELSON, Chairman of the Nationality Groups Commission of the Communist Party and held a discussion with him concerning a report submitted by LAUTNER pertaining to the Hungarian-American Relief, Inc.

This informant also advised on June 17, 1946, that STEVE NELSON had scheduled a meeting with LOUIS WEINSTOCK of the Painters Union. This informant stated on November 7, 1946 that LAUTNER and NATHAN EINHORN of the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, had made an appointment to see STEVE NELSON.

The informant was unable to state positively that this meeting had actually taken place however.

This informant stated on November 19, 1946, that the subject was a member of the Foreign Language Commission of which STEVE NELSON was the Director. Others at the Commission included ISRAEL AMTER, State Official of the Communist Party, [redacted] of the Italian Groups, [redacted] of the Yugoslavia Group. In this connection, NELSON and LAUTNER had several conferences during the latter part of 1946.

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This informant stated on January 27, 1947 LAUTNER held a meeting in the National Headquarters Office at the Communist Party, 35 East 12th Street, New York City with LAUTNER, [redacted]

Confidential Informant T-20

This informant, of known reliability, on February 28, 1949, stated that the subject was employed and paid by the New York State Communist Party.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of SA ADRIAN B. CLARK, dated August 18, 1949 at New York, New York, are as follows:

T-1

Former [redacted]

b7D

T-2

Special Agent [redacted]  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C

Military District of Washington, D.C.,  
who furnished information to  
SAs of the Washington Field Office.

T-3

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
West Virginia, formerly [redacted]  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] in West Virginia. He furnished  
information to SA F. M. FAWCETT  
of the Huntington Office.

T-4

[redacted]  
[redacted] West Virginia,  
who is an admitted former Communist  
Party member and who furnished  
information to SA [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] of the Huntington Office.

T-6

[redacted] of the Indianapolis Office.

b7D

T-7

Records of the Military Intelligence  
Service, Washington, D. C., made  
available to SAs of the Washington  
Field Office.

b7D

T-8

[redacted]  
and a member of the Communist Party,  
who has not been exposed and who  
furnished information to SA EDWARD W.  
BUCKLEY.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (Cont'd)

T-9

[redacted] who is not a member of the Communist Party, who has not been exposed as an informant but whose services have been discontinued.

b7D

T-10

Deleted.

b7D

T-11

[redacted]  
operating as a member of the Communist Party who was exposed in the trial of the members of the Communist Party National Board and who furnished information to SA EDWARD W. BUCKLEY .

b7D

T-12

[redacted]  
not a member of the Communist Party and who has not been exposed. He furnished information to SA CHARLES F. HEINER of the New York Office.

b7D

T-13

[redacted]  
operating as a member of the Communist Party who has not been exposed. He furnished information to SA CHARLES F. HEINER.

b7D

T-14

[redacted]  
operating as a member of the Communist Party who was exposed in the trial of the members of the Communist Party National Board. She furnished information to SA CHARLES F. HEINER.

b7D

T-15

Pittsburgh [redacted].

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (Cont'd)

T-16 ND 426

T-17

[REDACTED]

b7D

T-18

The summary of information  
furnished by NYM 169 to  
SAs RUSSELL S. GARNER. [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

[REDACTED] FREDERICK C.  
ZINCK, JAMES F. BLAND and former  
SA C. J. PETERSON.

T-19

NYT 26

T-20

Confidential Informant [REDACTED]  
Albany.

b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
**FEDERAL** DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC **ON**  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. 100-16516 BAM

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/23/50</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12/20/49; 1/11,12,13/50</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>
TITLE <b>CHANGED JOHN LAUTNER, with aliases</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> Subject still resides Apartment 4P, 212 West 22nd Street, New York City, with [REDACTED] LAUTNER paid employee of CP of New York State. Subject [REDACTED] at Jersey City, New Jersey. CP activities set forth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P* -</p> <p><b>REFERENCES:</b> Bureau File 100-16177 Reports of SA ADRIAN B. CLARK, New York, June 7, 1949, August 18, 1949</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> The name JOHN LAUTNER, JR. is being added to the title, inasmuch as the records of the Court of Common Pleas, Youngstown, Ohio, reflect that the subject used that name on February 16, 1923 and filed a declaration of intention for naturalization. According to these records a petition for naturalization was issued to the subject on May 27, 1926.</p> <p>On February 28, 1949, Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that the subject as an employee of the Communist Party of New York State, 35 East 12th Street, New York City, received approximately \$1,980 from October 1947 to June 1948 as salary.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Edward Scheidt</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
COPIES DESTROYED	100-16177-34 SE 25		
5 - Bureau 2 - Pittsburgh 3 - New York	EX - 51		



NY 100-16516

On April 7, 1949, Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised that LAUTNER was suggested to the Communist Party as a teacher for the Jefferson School of Social Science and the Marxist Institute.

It is to be noted that the Jefferson School of Social Science is an organization which has been declared by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Confidential Informant T-2 on May 16, 1949 advised that JOHN LAUTNER held membership in the Communist Party.

On May 27, 1949, Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, reported that the subject was a member of the Communist Party. The informant advised that he did not know the subject's residence.

On June 9, 1949, Confidential Informant T-2 stated that the subject was invited to attend a meeting of the Organizational Commission of the Communist Party which was to be held at Academy Hall, 853 Broadway, Room 16-G, New York City, on Thursday, June 9, at 10:30 A.M. According to the informant, a discussion was to be held at the meeting on "Committee Panel".

On July 14, 1949, [redacted] Roxbury, Boston, Massachusetts, a member of the Communist Party since 1937, testified in the trial of the United States vs. WILLIAM Z. FOSTER; et al, Southern District of New York, United States District Court, Judge Harold R. Medina presiding. In her testimony [redacted] stated that JOHN LAUTNER did not teach any classes in the Communist Party Schools which were held in Boston, Massachusetts.

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On July 25, 1949, [redacted] of the State Board, state of West Virginia, made available a true and correct photostatic copy of page 575 of the nominating certificate of EARL BROWDER of New York for President of the United States, JAMES W. FORD of Alabama for Vice-President of the United States, and OSCAR WHEELER of Beckley, West Virginia for Governor of the State of West Virginia representing the Communist Party of the United States, which was filed in the office of the Secretary of State Board of West Virginia on May 13, 1940. The name of JOHN LAUTNER, Box 92, Charlestown, West Virginia appears on the certificate as a signer of the petition. This photostatic copy is being retained as an exhibit by the New York office.

On July 12, 1949 the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Jersey City, New Jersey, made available a certified photostatic copy of the subject's application for a marriage license No. 85648, dated September 2, 1941. This application reflects that JOHN LAUTNER was 39 years of age on the first of January 1941 and at the time of the filing of the application

NY 100-16516

LAUTNER resided at 100 Van Wagner Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey. According to the application LAUTNER stated that he was divorced.

The above mentioned application reflects that the subject's intended [redacted] and reported that she resided at [redacted] Jersey City, New Jersey [redacted] lists her marital status as single. The application reflects that the subject intended to wed on September 5, 1941.

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The aforementioned application for marriage license for the subject reflects that the subject married [redacted] 1941 in Jersey City, New Jersey and that the witness to the marriage was [redacted] Jersey City, New Jersey. The aforementioned photostatic copies are being retained as an exhibit by the New York office.

On October 6, 1949, Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability, advised that JOHN LAUTNER was employed by the Communist Party of New York State, and that he received approximately \$780 from April through June of 1949.

Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, on October 11, 1949 advised that one JOHN LAUTNER, who was born in 1902 was a member of Lodge 1002 International Workers Order, New York City, as of October, 1949. According to the informant, LAUTNER became a member of the Lodge in February, 1942.

It is to be noted that according to the records of the Court of Common Pleas, Youngstown, Ohio, in applying for naturalization the subject stated that he was born on January 1, 1902 at Polanok, Hungary.

It should also be noted that the International Workers Order is an organization which has been declared by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The writer, on January 12, 1950 observed that the apartment house directory located in the lobby at 212 West 22nd Street, New York City lists [redacted] and J. LAUTNER as the occupants of Apartment 4P.

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b7C

The Manhattan, New York City telephone directory dated July, 1949 reflects that telephone number Watkins 9-5243 is listed under [redacted] 212 West 22nd Street.

- P E N D I N G -

NY 100-16516

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

By letter dated July 26, 1949, the Pittsburgh office forwarded to the New York office photostatic copies certified by [redacted] Department of Motor Vehicles, West Virginia, of the following:

b6  
b7c

1. Assignment of title to JOHN LAUTNER, issued April 27, 1939.
2. Application for a certificate of title by JOHN LAUTNER, dated May 2, 1939.
3. Assignment of certificate of title by JOHN LAUTNER, dated January 28, 1941.

There is no additional pertinent information concerning the subject reflected on the above mentioned evidence and the copies are being retained as exhibits by the New York office.

Two copies of this report are being designated to the Pittsburgh office, inasmuch as the subject formerly resided in the territory handled by that office.

NY 100-16516

LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will follow and report further evidence of the subject's  
Communist Party affiliations.

NY 100-16516

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The informants mentioned in the report of SA [redacted]  
[redacted], dated January 23, 1950 at New York, are identified as follows:

b6  
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T-1: Confidential Informant [redacted] who furnished  
information to the Albany office.

T-2: ND 426

b7D

T-3: Former [redacted] who was contacted by SA EDWARD  
W. BUCKLEY.

T-4: Confidential Informant [redacted] who furnished  
information to the Albany office.

b6  
b7C

T-5: ND 425, who was contacted by SA [redacted]

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. FLETCHER

DATE: January 30, 1950

FROM : F. J. Baumgardner

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER, was  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
Bureau file #100-16177ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

PURPOSE:

To recommend an interview with John Lautner, who was recently expelled from the Communist Party. At the time of his expulsion, Lautner was a member of the National Review Commission of the Communist Party.

BACKGROUND:

Lautner was born January 1, 1902, in Poland. He entered the United States in 1903 and was naturalized in July, 1926. In 1941 Lautner was District Organizer for the Communist Party in West Virginia. In 1942 he became National Secretary of the Hungarian-American Section of the IWO. He entered the U. S. Army in November, 1942, and was discharged in June, 1945. Thereafter, he became one of the directors of the American-Hungarian Relief, Inc., in New York City. He was also an instructor of strategy and tactics in the Communist Party Training School. In 1948 he was reported to be a member of the New York State Review Commission of the Communist Party and as part of his duties, investigated charges against Party members. In this connection in 1948 Lautner was involved in the handling of charges brought against [redacted]

[redacted] The charges were dropped and [redacted] later testified at the trial of the National Board members of the Communist Party. His handling of this case appears to have had some bearing on Lautner's expulsion from the Party.

b6  
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The "Daily Worker" of January 17, 1950, described Lautner as a former member of the National Review Commission and stated that he was expelled because he prevented the expulsion of the "spy Calomiris" and "that he had also recommended a number of untrustworthy individuals for work in the defense office during the period of the trial." He was described as a "traitor and enemy of the working class."

The New York Office has requested authority to interview Lautner.

Attachment

MET: GAS

100-16177-35

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of Lautner's experience as Secretary of the Hungarian-American Section of the IWO, as an instructor in the Communist School, and his membership on the Communist Party National Review Commission, it would appear that Lautner possesses much valuable information.

From the statements made against Lautner in the "Daily Worker," it would seem that reinstatement in the Communist Party is unlikely. However, prior to being interviewed, inquiry should be made with informants in an effort to determine his present status and attitude. If it is determined that he is not making an effort to be reinstated and has completely severed all relations with the Party, then, he should be interviewed. If you agree, attached is a letter to the New York Office.

9/14/42

2/12

4/12

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gh

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

## JOHN LAUTNER EXPELLED BY CP AS A TRAITOR

The National Review Commission of the Communist Party has been conducting an investigation to determine how the FBI agents exposed in the Foley Square trial penetrated and functioned in the ranks of the Party.

In the course of its examination, the Review Commission ascertained that several months ago John Lautner, a member of the New York State Review Commission, was instrumental in preventing the expulsion of the spy, Calomiris, and that he had also recommended a number of untrustworthy individuals for work in the Defense Office during the period of the trial.

Further investigation revealed that Lautner himself is an enemy agent of long standing. A full disclosure will be made at the proper time.

In view of the already established facts, the National Review Commission approves the recommendation of the subcommittee which examined the case of John Lautner and hereby expels him from the Communist Party as a traitor and enemy of the working class.



LAUTNER

The Review Commission calls upon the Party leadership and membership to heighten their Communist vigilance and to redouble their efforts to safeguard and strengthen the Party.

NOT RECORDED

45 FEB 10 1950

This is a clipping from  
Page 2 of the  
Daily Worker  
Date 1-17-50  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.

FIVE



February 2, 1950

RECORDED JOHN LAUTNER, was  
95 INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
Bureau file #100-16177-36

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

102

Before making any contact with Lautner, you are instructed to make inquiries through established sources and confidential informants in an effort to ascertain his present attitude toward the Communist Party and to determine if he has made any efforts toward reinstatement. If the results of these inquiries indicate that he has completely severed all relations with the Party, then, you may proceed with arrangements for an interview. The interview should be handled by two Agents experienced in Communist Party matters.

It is suggested that your introductory interview with Lautner should be of a general exploratory nature to determine the extent of his knowledge of Communist Party activities. If he proves to be cooperative, you should at that time or in subsequent interviews thoroughly exhaust his knowledge of all phases of Communist Party activities. Particular emphasis should be given to ascertaining complete information relative to the Party's investigations of members for disloyalty, Party underground activities, and work of the Party in the foreign language field.

The Bureau should be promptly advised concerning the results of your interview.

MET:GAS:dbb

(This was approved by Executives Conference, 2/1/50, Messrs. Tolson, N.H. McCabe, Ladd, Glavin, Harbo, Nichols, Tracy, Mohr, Carlson, and Fletcher in attendance. HBF)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED DIRECTOR  
F B I  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FEB 2 7 16 PM '50

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

TELETYPE

WASH FROM NEW YORK 4 17 2-42P

DIRECTOR URGENT

JOHN LAUTNER, WAS, ISC. BUFILE ONE HUNDRED DASH ONE SIX ONE SEVEN  
SEVEN. DAILY WORKER FOR JAN. SEVENTEEN, NINETEEN FIFTY, PAGE TWO,  
COLUMN FOUR, CARRIES ARTICLE TO EFFECT THAT NATIONAL REVIEW COMMISSION  
OF CP HAD BEEN CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE HOW THE FBI  
INFORMANTS EXPOSED DURING TRIAL HAD PENETRATED AND FUNCTIONED IN  
RANKS OF PARTY. THAT IN COURSE OF ITS EXAMINATION, REVIEW COMMISSION  
HAD ASCERTAINED THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO JOHN LAUTNER, MEMBER OF NY  
STATE REVIEW COMMISSION, WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PREVENTING EXPULSION  
OF [REDACTED] AND FURTHER THAT HE HAD ALSO RECOMMENDED NUMBER  
OF UNTRUSTWORTHY INDIVIDUALS FOR WORK IN DEFENSE OFFICE DURING PERIOD  
OF TRIAL. ARTICLE SAID THAT FURTHER INVESTIGATION REVEALED LAUTNER  
HIMSELF AS ENEMY OF [REDACTED] <sup>LONG</sup> STANDING AND THAT IN VIEW OF THESE ESTABLISHED  
FACTS NATIONAL REVIEW COMMISSION APPROVED RECOMMENDATION OF SUB  
COMMITTEE WHICH EXAMINED LAUTNER'S CASE AND HEREBY EXPELLED HIM FROM  
CP AS TRAITOR AND ENEMY OF WORKING CLASS. NY OFFICE HAD NO PREVIOUS  
KNOWLEDGE OF ACTION TAKEN BY CP AGAINST LAUTNER. CONF. INF. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STATES THAT LAUTNER APPEARS TO BE THE "FALL GUY"

END PAGE ONE

52 FEB 17 1955

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b7C  
b7D

b7D

WA 4 PAGE TWO

BECAUSE  TRUE IDENTITY WAS NOT DISCLOSED OR KNOWN TO CP  
FORE HER APPEARANCE AS GOVERNMENT WITNESS. INFORMANT CHARACTERIZED  
LAUTNER AS WEAK, INEFFECTUAL, POOR DISCIPLINARIAN AND EASILY PUSHED  
AROUND. BUREAU REQUESTED TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING SPECIAL AGENTS OF  
THIS OFFICE TO CONTACT LAUTNER FOR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING HIS RE-  
CEPTIVITY TO INTERVIEW BY THIS OFFICE.

SCHEIDTEND

HOLD PLS

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Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT

TO : Direct

DATE: February 20, 1950

FROM : SAC, N

SUBJECT: JOHN I

INTERM

(Bureau

IFY - C

100-16177)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Reurlet 1 February 2, 1950.

On January 1, 1950, [redacted] at 212 West 22nd Street, New York City, advised that the subject and [redacted] reside in apartment 4P at this address. [redacted] stated that the [redacted] New York City. He stated that the subject [redacted] and that during the daytime, while the [redacted] are at work, [redacted] he does not know of the subject's employment or activities and as far as he knows LAUTNER has the usual business working hours. He stated that he has only seen the subject occasionally and that as far as he knows the subject still resides at this address.

On February 16, 1950, SAS JOSEPH F. DIFFLEY and [redacted] conducted spot surveillance in the neighborhood of 212 West 22nd Street, New York City. During the hours from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. these agents did not observe the subject leave or enter the apartment house at this address.

February 16, 1950, [redacted] was again contacted at which time he advised that he recalls that the subject and another unidentified man [redacted] to apartment house approximately two weeks prior to this date. [redacted] stated that he recalls observing LAUTNER putting some luggage and golf bags into the automobile of this other individual and that it was his belief that LAUTNER was going on a vacation and was leaving New York City. [redacted] said that he does not know who the other man was and that he has no idea where LAUTNER may have gone. [redacted] stated it was his belief that LAUTNER was not in the best of health and that he may have gone away to recuperate from an illness.

On February 16, 1950, a discreet pretext telephone call was made to the subject's apartment at which time an individual by the name of [redacted] answered the telephone and advised that she was the subject's maid. She stated that LAUTNER left the apartment about one month ago and that he has not resided therein since that time. She said that she did not know if he was still in New York City or where he was employed. She stated that Mrs. LAUTNER is a school teacher in New York City and that as far as she [redacted] knows, Mrs. LAUTNER is the only individual who may know the subject's whereabouts.

JNJ:MM  
100-16516

RECORDED - 140  
INDEXED - 140

100-16177-37

Letter to Director  
NY 100-16516

137788

On February 16, 1950, [redacted] Old Chelsea Post Office Station, 217 West 18th Street, New York City, advised that through a check of their records and by contacting the mail carrier, it was ascertained that there has been no change in the mailing address of the subject.

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The following Confidential Informants, all of known reliability, advised that they do not know of the current activities of LAUTNER:



b7D

On February 14, 1950, [redacted] Board of Education, 110 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York, advised SA JOSEPH F. DUFFLEY, that the [redacted] [redacted] is employed as a regular [redacted] at the High School of Commerce, 155 West 65th Street, New York City. [redacted] also advised that the [redacted] has been employed by the New York City Board of Education since [redacted] identity should be protected by a temporary symbol.

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b7C  
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In an effort to ascertain the subject's whereabouts, a mail cover is being placed on the subject and [redacted] The New York Office is conducting additional investigation in an effort to ascertain LAUTNER'S current residence and activities.

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b7C

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: April 3, 1950

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER, was. John Lautner, Jr.,  
 John Lottner, John Laughtner  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
 (Bureau file 100-16177)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
 TAM/MLT/CLS

LAUTNER was a member of the New York State Review Commission and was formerly an instructor at the Jefferson School of Social Science. He was born January 1, 1902, in Czechoslovakia. He entered the United States in 1903, and was naturalized at Youngstown, Ohio in July, 1926. LAUTNER resided with [redacted] at 212 West 22nd Street, New York City.

b6  
 b7C

Prior to coming to New York City, LAUTNER was State Secretary of the Communist Party of West Virginia and resided at Charleston, West Virginia. He was also an organizer for the Communist Party in the State of West Virginia. LAUTNER was National Director of the Hungarian Language Club of the International Workers Order in July of 1942.

The "Daily Worker" of January 17, 1950, contains an article which reflects that LAUTNER was expelled by the Communist Party as a traitor and enemy of the working class. According to the article, the National Review Commission of the Communist Party had been conducting an investigation to determine how the FBI Agents, exposed at the Foley Square trial, had penetrated and functioned in the ranks of the Party. In the course of its examination, the Review Commission ascertained that LAUTNER, a member of the New York State Review Commission was instrumental in preventing the expulsion of [redacted] and that he had also recommended a number of untrustworthy individuals for work in the Defense Office during the period of the trial.

b6  
 b7C  
 b7D

According to the article, further investigation revealed that LAUTNER, himself, was an enemy agent of long standing and that a full disclosure would be made at the proper time.

By teletype dated January 17, 1950, the New York Office requested Bureau authority to interview the subject. In reply, by letter dated February 2, 1950, the Bureau advised that prior to contacting LAUTNER, inquiries through established sources and confidential informants should be made in an effort to ascertain LAUTNER'S present attitude toward the Communist Party, and to determine if he has made any efforts toward reinstatement.

2cc:Pittsburgh (100-9396) (Enc. 1)  
 2cc:Cleveland (Enc.1)

JNJ:PRS  
 100-16516

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52 APR 18 1950

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100-16177-38

Letter to Director  
NY 100-16516

Investigation by the New York Office, prior to interviewing LAUTNER as suggested by the above mentioned Bureau letter, has been conducted. On February 16, 1950, [redacted] at 212 West 22nd Street, New York City, the subject's residence, advised that the subject left the apartment house approximately two weeks prior to this date, and that he has not seen him since. He advised that it was his impression and understanding that LAUTNER was going on a vacation and was leaving New York City because LAUTNER was not in the best of health. [redacted] did not furnish any further information concerning LAUTNER.

b6  
b7C

On February 16, 1950, a discreet pretext telephone call was made to the subject's apartment, at which time an individual by the name of [redacted] answered the telephone and advised that she was [redacted] at the subject's apartment. She stated that the subject had left the apartment about one month ago and that he has not resided therein since that time. She said that she did not know if he was still in New York City or whether he was employed or not. [redacted] advised that [redacted] On March 15, 1950, [redacted] was again contacted under a suitable pretext, at which time she did not furnish any additional information from that set out above.

A description of the subject is set out below:

Race:	White
Born:	January 1, 1902, Polanok, Seclo, Czechoslovakia.
Height:	5' 8"
Weight:	158 lbs.
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Brown
Citizenship:	United States; entered US in 1903, naturalized in July, 1926, Court of Common Pleas, Youngstown, Ohio
Army serial no:	32622865
Social Security no:	072-18-7594
Relatives:	Wife: [redacted]

b6  
b7C

Mother: MARY LAUTNER  
Wilson Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

Sister: [redacted]

Letter to Director  
NY 100-16516

The New York Office is continuing to conduct discreet investigation in an effort to ascertain the whereabouts of the subject, having in mind, the possible interview of LAUTNER.

The Cleveland and Pittsburgh Offices are requested to conduct the following investigation:

CLEVELAND

At Youngstown, Ohio

b6  
b7C

Will ascertain if the subject may be currently living with his mother Mrs. MARY LAUTNER, Wilson Avenue or his sister [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Will contact confidential informants and sources of information and conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the subject possibly may be living in Youngstown, Ohio.

PITTSBURGH

At Charleston, West Virginia

Subject formerly resided Charleston, West Virginia, and was District Organizer of the Communist Party for the State of West Virginia prior to January 17, 1941. Request you check confidential informants and sources of information and conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the subject has returned to Charleston, West Virginia.



SAC, New York

June 19, 1950

Director, FBI

JOHN LAUTNER  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(Your file 100-16516)  
(Bureau file 100-16177)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Reurlet dated April 3, 1950.

Thus far the Bureau has not received any information concerning the results of your endeavor to locate Lautner. In view of the extreme importance of an interview with this subject in the event he should prove to be cooperative, you are requested to intensify your efforts to locate him. The Bureau should be immediately advised as to the results of your efforts thus far.

MET:mac  
*mac*

RECORDED - 53

EX-3

*100-16177-39*

JUN 21 1950

49  
*OK*  
*2/11/51*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: July 6, 1950

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER, was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(Bureau file 100-16177)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Rebulet dated June 19, 1950 requesting to be advised of the efforts to locate the subject for interview as a possible informant.

In New York letter to the Bureau dated April 3, 1950, investigative leads were set out for both the Cleveland Office and the Pittsburgh Office. The Pittsburgh Office advised by letter dated May 18, 1950, that Pittsburgh Confidential Informant [ ] reported that he had made inquiries concerning LAUTNER at Charleston, W. Virginia, and had determined that the subject did not return to Charleston after his disappearance from New York City.

b7D

The Cleveland Office advised by letter dated April 21, 1950, that there was no information on the subject at the Youngstown, Ohio Police Department's Internal Security Squad. Further at the Youngstown Credit Bureau, there was no information on the subject. However, the files revealed that the subject's mother, MARY LAUTNER, widow of JOHN LAUTNER, Sr., resided at 2059 Summer Street, [ ] in June, 1948. The mother was employed as a practical nurse.

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b7C

[ ] Summer Street, stated that the [ ] family had moved from [ ] Summer Street about one year ago. She said at present they reside at [ ] Boardman, Ohio. She knew the subject from infrequent visits he had made to his mother in the past, but stated that she had not seen him in approximately three years. In addition to his mother and [ ] stated that JOHN LAUTNER has [ ] both residing in the vicinity of Youngstown, Ohio.

[ ] Boardman, Ohio, a neighbor of the [ ] family, advised that she had known them about one year. She had never seen the subject in the time she had known the [ ] family.

b6  
b7C

The Cleveland letter continued that the subject's mother, Mrs. MARY LAUTNER, 244 Melbourne Street, Boardman, Ohio, and [ ] Poland, Ohio, were both interviewed under pretext. They stated that the subject was not presently in town on a visit, and that they have not seen or heard from JOHN LAUTNER since the Summer of 1949, when he came home for a few days on a visit. They did not have a New

Encl. (1)

cc:Cleveland  
cc:Pittsburgh  
cc:St. LouisBLK:PRS  
100-16516

RECORDED - 27

INDEXED - 27

COPIES DESTROYED 4/23/80

100-16177-40

Let. to Dir.  
NY 100-16516

York City address for the subject, and advised that they do not know where LAUTNER is at the present time. Further, Mrs. [redacted] of the subject, [redacted] Youngstown, Ohio, also interviewed under pretext, gave the same information as above.

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b7C

The following confidential informants, all of the New York Office, have been checked and no information concerning the present whereabouts of the subject was developed: [redacted]  
[redacted]

b7D

On May 9, 1950, New York Confidential Informant [redacted] advised SA [redacted] that it is his belief that the subject has returned to West Virginia. [redacted] stated that LAUTNER would in all probability seek employment among the Hungarians in West Virginia or Ohio since he considers them to be the only friends he has remaining.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

The Cleveland Office is requested to contact confidential informants and sources of information and conduct appropriate investigation to determine if the subject has contacted or is working among any Hungarians in either Cleveland, Ohio, or in Youngstown, Ohio.

The Pittsburgh Office is requested to contact confidential informants and sources of information and to conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the subject is working among Hungarians in Charleston, West Virginia, or in any section of West Virginia that has a sizeable Hungarian population.

The St. Louis Office will secure handwriting specimens of the subject from his military records and forward same to the Bureau.

JOHN LAUTNER, Army Serial Number 32622865, born January 1, 1902, entered service through Local Board number 19, New York City on November 16, 1942. His military occupation was that of translator. He was discharged on June 20, 1945 at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

There is being forwarded to the Bureau herewith a photograph of the subject.

Enc. (1) to Bureau  
NY 100-16516

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS



JOHN LAUTNER/

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: July 19, 1950

FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER, Was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(Bufile #100-16177)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Relet New York to Bureau dated July 6, 1950.

The records of Demobilized Personnel Records Branch, Records Administration Center, Adjutant General's Office, St. Louis, Missouri, were checked for JOHN LAUTNER, ASN 32622865, and only one specimen of the handwriting of LAUTNER was located, a signature appearing on page two of his "Report of Physical Examination and Induction".

An exact size photostatic copy of this page, including subject's signature, is attached hereto for the Bureau in accordance with instructions in referenced letter.

RUC.

RJA:dln  
100-9646  
Enclosure (1)

ENCL

99 ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

Part of encl.  
added to  
7-7 file.  
8-17-54

RECORDED - 99

100-16177-41  
JUL 21 1950  
8

EX-87

SEVEN  
EVEN

JUL 21 1950

SECTION II.—REPORT OF LOCAL BOARD EXAMINING PHYSICIAN AND LOCAL BOARD CLASSIFICATION.

22. If registrant's answer to Item 6 above is "yes," when and for what ailment(s) \_\_\_\_\_

23. Is registrant now or previously an enrollee in the Civilian Conservation Corps: No ☒ Yes ☐

24. Serological test (syphilis): Date 10/1/42 Result Neg

Second serological test (syphilis): Date \_\_\_\_\_ Result \_\_\_\_\_

25. Examining physician's remarks \_\_\_\_\_

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 03-31-2006 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

26. (a) Do you find that the above-named registrant has any of the defects set forth in Part II of the List of Defects (Form 220) (If in doubt, answer "no," and give details.) no If answer is "yes," describe the defects, in order of significance (Answer yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Do you find that the above-named registrant has any of the defects set forth in Part II of the List of Defects (Form 220) (If in doubt, answer "no," and give details.) \_\_\_\_\_ If answer is "yes," describe the defects, in order of significance (Answer yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) I have examined the above-named registrant in accordance with Selective Service Regulations.

(d) Signature of examining physician B. C. [Signature]

(e) Place 333 Seventh Ave. N.Y. (Town or city) (County) (State) (f) Date Sept. 30th, 1942

27. (a) This Local Board has classified the above-named registrant in class 1-A

(b) Signature of Member of Local Board [Signature]

(c) Place N.Y. (Town or city) (County) (State) (d) Date Oct 5 '42

SECTION III.—NEAREST RELATIVE, PERSON TO BE NOTIFIED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, AND DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY (To be filled out at the induction station of the armed forces for only those registrants accepted for military service.)

A. Nearest relative and person to be notified in case of emergency:

28. Nearest relative Mrs. Mary Lautner (Other than wife or minor child. Name in full)

29. Relationship mother 30. Address Wilson Ave. Youngstown, Ohio (Number and street or rural route; if none, so state) (City, town, or post office) (State or country)

31. Person to be notified in case of emergency \_\_\_\_\_ (Name in full)

32. Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ (If friend, so state) 33. Address 212 W 22 St. N.Y. (Number and street or rural route; if none, so state) (City, town, or post office) (State or country)

B. Designation of beneficiary:

34. The persons eligible to be my beneficiary are designated below:

(1) [Redacted] 212 W 22 St. N.Y. (Full name of wife; if no wife, or if she is deceased or divorced, so state) (Wife's full address)

(2) None (Full name and address of each minor child and each dependent child over 21 years of age. If there are no children, so state. If the address is the same as the wife's, so state. Do not repeat address)

35. In the event of my leaving no widow or child, or their decease before payment is made, I then designate as my beneficiary the dependent relative whose name, relationship, and address are shown below:

(Mrs. Mary Lautner) (Mother) Wilson Ave. Youngstown, Ohio (If designation of beneficiary is declined, man must state in own handwriting: "I decline to designate any person as my beneficiary")

36. In the event my beneficiary is made, I then designate as

(4) Ohio (If beneficiary is designated, man must state in own handwriting: "I designate an alternate beneficiary")

37. Signature of \_\_\_\_\_ (Last name)

38. Witnessed a \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

Ass't Rct & Ind Off  
(Grade and organization)

ORIGINAL

## ice Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, Pittsburgh

DATE: August 21, 1950

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER, was.  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
 (Bureau file 100-16177)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
 TAM/MLT/CLS

Re New York letter to the Bureau, 7/6/50.

[redacted] was recontacted on July 14, 1950, at which time informant advised that no mention of captioned subject has been made by CP members at Charleston, W. Va., and vicinity and that there is no indication that LAUTNER has returned to West Virginia.

[redacted] of known reliability and who is generally familiar with CP activities and membership in West Virginia particularly in the vicinity of southern West Virginia, was contacted on August 8, 1950, in this matter. Informant stated that he has received no information which might indicate LAUTNER's present whereabouts. [redacted] further advised that the last time he heard anything regarding the subject was approximately one year ago. At this time, informant related, [redacted] prominent CP members at Beckley, W. Va., remarked that LAUTNER had been in the service during World War II in an intelligence capacity. There was no further discussion concerning the subject.

No further investigation is being conducted by the Pittsburgh Office in this case in the absence of specific leads. [redacted] are the only informants presently being utilized by this office to cover CP activities in West Virginia District [redacted] and District [redacted] CP, covering West Virginia, comprises approximately forty odd active members and operates without an office. Moreover, there are no significant centers of Hungarian population in West Virginia although there are scattered Hungarian groups at Morgantown, Fairmont and Weirton, West Virginia.

In the event information concerning the subject's whereabouts should come to the attention of this office, the New York office will be promptly advised.

RUC.

cc: New York (100-16516)

FDC:MJH  
 100-9396

RECORDED - 117  
 INDEXED - 117

100-16177-42  
 AUG 28 1950

-X-32



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC-150

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS  
SAC NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 18, 1950

JOHN LAUTNER, WAS; IS-C, YOUR FILE ONE HUNDRED DASH ONE SIX FIVE ONE SIX.  
BUREAU RECEIVED LETTER FROM LAUTNER DATED SEPTEMBER FOURTEEN LAST ADVISING  
THAT HE WAS EXPELLED FROM CP IN JANUARY NINETEEN FIFTY AND CHARGED WITH  
BEING QUOTE FINEY AGENT OF LONG STANDING UNQUOTE, THAT HE IS READY AND  
WILLING WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION TO GIVE FULLEST COOPERATION TO FBI BUT  
THAT DISCRETION BE USED IN CONTACTING HIM. LAUTNER GAVE HIS ADDRESS AS  
FIVE SIX NINE FORT WASHINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, TELEPHONE WA THREE  
DASH NINE NAUGHT ONE ONE. ARRANGE IMMEDIATELY FOR INTERVIEW WITH LAUTNER  
AND FULLY DEVELOP INFORMATION REQUESTED BY BULETTER DATED FEBRUARY TWO  
NINETEEN FIFTY.

HOOVER

RECORDED - 100-16177 - 43

EX-81

INITIALED  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SEP 18 1950  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 18 1950

TELETYPE

SENT VIA

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Per

Date of Removal 2-1-52Report  
Letter  
Enclosurefrom John Lautner submitteALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLSDated 9-14-1950 has been removed for Mr. Henrich

to be sent to

N.Y. Office Temporarily

Subject

Synopsis

John Lautner  
Letter known him admitting  
membership in C. P. Union to  
January 1950.This is to be removed from file upon the return of the item and  
forwarded to the Coordinator of Mail and Files

Date

11-1-52 Removed by John Parish (SU)

File Number

100-16177-43

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-31-84 BY SP5 RJG/PNC

WASHINGTON 73 FROM NEW YORK  
DIRECTOR URGENT

20 11-02 P

JOHN LAUTNER, WAS., IS - C. BUFILE ONE HUNDRED - ONE SIX ONE SEVEN SEVEN. REBUTEL SEPT EIGHTEENTH, FIFTY. SUBJ INTERVIEWED THIS DATE, FURNISHED PERSONAL BACKGROUND INFO. SUBJ COOPERATIVE AND VOLUNTARILY FURNISHED DETAILS AS TO HIS CP BACKGROUND WHICH IS SUMMARIZED.. LAUTNER JOINED CP TWENTY NINE, YORKVILLE, NY, [REDACTED] WHO WAS LATER [REDACTED]. TWENTY NINE WAS ASSIGNED BY CP TO WORK WITH WORKERS INTERNATIONAL RELIEF IN NYC COLLECTING FUNDS FOR EAST OHIO MINERS THEN ON STRIKE. NINETEEN THIRTY SUBJ ATTENDED NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TRAINING SCHOOL SET UP IN NYC, GRADUATED AND WAS ASSIGNED TO BUILD HUNGARIAN PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN. IN THIRTY ONE LAUTNER WAS SENT TO CLEVELAND, OHIO BY CP AND WAS MADE SECREARTY OF THE CP IN CLEVELAND. SUBJ WAS ALSO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU IN CLEVELAND. SUBJ RETURNED NYC THIRTY TWO, ASSIGNED TO ORGANIZE NEW CP SECTION NO. EIGHTEEN ON WEST SIDE MANHATTAN. WORKED IN SECTION EIGHTEEN UNTIL APRIL THIRTY SIX. SUBJ THEN ASSIGNED BY CP TO ITS WEST VIRGINIA HEADQUARTERS IN FAIRMOUNT, WEST VA. HEADQUARTERS, CP IN WEST VA. MOVED TO CHARLESTON, W. VA. WHILE LAUTNER WAS THERE. LAUTNER BUILT CP TO POINT WHERE CP WAS CONSIDERED A MAJOR FACTOR IN W. VA.

b6  
b7C

RECORDED - 4 100-16177-44  
SEP 25 1950

COPIES DESTROYED 11-13-59 INDEXED - 4

END PAGE ONE

EX-100

PAGE TWO

IN FORTY SUBJ RETURNED TO NYC TO ATTEND NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL. SUBJ ASSIGNED TO INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ORDER FORTY ONE. BECAME CP, USA BUREAU SECRETARY OF HUNGARIAN COMMISSION. MAIN ACTIVITY WAS IN WAR EFFORT WITH HUNGARIANS. SUBJ SERVED IN US ARMY, FORTY TWO - FORTY FIVE. LAUTNER ASSIGNED BY NATIONAL COMMITTEE, CP, USA, TO BUILD HUNGARIAN TRADE UNION COMMITTEE. HUNGARIAN RELIEF BECAME MAIN PROBLEM. IN FORTY SEVEN SUBJ BECAME SECTION ORGANIZER AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN THE CHELSEA SECTION, CP, USA, NYC. FROM FORTY EIGHT TO JANUARY, FIFTY SUBJ APPOINTED CHAIRMAN NY STATE REVIEW COMMISSION. EXPELLED CP, USA, JANUARY SEVENTEENTH, FIFTY, ACCUSED OF BEING AGENT OF CIA. INITIAL INTERVIEW WITH SUBJ CONDUCTED TO SECURE GENERAL OUTLINE OF SUBJECT-S CP ACTIVITIES. INTERVIEW SCHEDULED SEPT TWENTY FIRST, NEXT. WILL OBTAIN DETAILED INFO. CONCERNING SECRET PARTY APPARATUS, UNDERGROUND OPERATIONS, SECURITY METHODS OF CP, USA, AND IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED WITH ABOVE. DETAILED LETTER WILL SET OUT RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS. TEL SUMMARY OF EACH INTERVIEW WILL BE FURNISHED BUREAU.

SCHEIDT

ACK AND HLD PLS

NY R -73 WA LRP

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
New York, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS, 1950  
ON 10-26-2005

Director, FBI

Re: JOHN LAUTNER, with aliases;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(Bureau File 100-16177)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau teletype dated September 18, 1950, entitled, "JOHN LAUTNER, was; INTERNAL SECURITY - C", in which it was requested that LAUTNER be interviewed.

LAUTNER was interviewed in the New York Office on September 20, 1950, at which time he declared he had severed all connections with the Communist Party, USA. He declared the basis for the separation was the fact that the Party considered him to be an agent of Central Intelligence Agency based upon circumstantial evidence collected over a period of months, which was unknown to him. His expulsion from the Party caused a "mental shock" to him, and as he advised, since January 17, 1950, when he was expelled, he has constantly meditated upon his present position and decided to assist the Bureau, without reservation, in any way he could. In addition, LAUTNER stated his expulsion caused his wife, [redacted] to divorce him in Reno, Nevada, and at the present time he believes she is residing at [redacted] New York City, [redacted]

LAUTNER stated that since January, 1950, he has reviewed his entire life. He has decided that the Party in his life has been "God", and that he has not been an individual since the time he took up the Party work in 1929. LAUTNER continued that the Communist Party, in his estimation, is cold, calculating and inhuman; further, that his wife's act in believing the Communist Party expulsion, namely, that he was an agent of the CIA, was the clinching event, which proved to him that a Communist Party member was not a "human being" and could not possibly be an individual.

At this time LAUTNER brought out that his entire family are devout Catholics, and in Hungary he was a member of the Catholic Church. He does not feel that he is ready at this time to rejoin the Catholic Church; that he does not want to be a hypocrite, and that his future connections with any church will have to come in due time as he thinks various situations out.

When asked whether he would testify as to any information he furnished, LAUTNER stated that he could not give an opinion concerning this at this time, but would take each situation as it would arise in the future.

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BLK:MFH  
100-16516

RECORDED

INDEXED

SEP 27 1950

EX-100-16177-45

Letter/Director, FBI  
NY 100-16516

At the present time, LAUTNER advised, he is receiving Unemployment Compensation checks, which will run through the end of this year, and is residing with his brother, FRANK at 579 Fort Washington Avenue, New York City.

~~LAUTNER~~  
LAUTNER stated he was born in Varbalanka, Hungary on January 1, 1902, his father being JOHN LAUTNER and mother, MARY BALOGH LAUTNER. He has three brothers; FRANK, age 41; LEONARD, age 46, and MICHAEL, age 47, the latter two of Youngstown, Ohio, and two sisters; LILLIAN CLARK, age 45 of Cleveland, Ohio, and ISABELLE SCHUNN, age 40, of Youngstown, Ohio. His mother, MARY, resides with her daughter ISABELLE in Youngstown, Ohio. It was noted by the subject that the name JOHN LAUTNER has been the only name he ever used in the United States, having been born and naturalized under that name.

At the age of sixteen months, his family came to the United States, on the "SS Kaiser Wilhelm", from Bremen, and arrived at the Port of New York, but proceeded immediately to Mahanass, Pennsylvania in 1904. When he was four and a half years of age, the family moved to Freeland, Pennsylvania, where his father was a foreman in the mines there. After being there a short time the family came to New York City.

LAUTNER advised that when he was six years old, the whole family went back to Hungary, where he attended public grammar school and high school, and also a year and a half at the Teachers College in Munkacs.

In July, 1920, the family returned to the United States on the "SS Rotterdam" from Holland, and proceeded to Youngstown, Ohio, where the address was Bordman Road, R.F.D. #4.

For a period of a year and a half, beginning in September, 1920, LAUTNER worked in the Republic Iron and Steel Company, cutting threads on pipes in the tube mill. He went to Cleveland for a short period of time, where he worked as a paper hanger and helper for a contractor, and then went to Arizona for a few months, but returned to Youngstown in 1922. He worked with his father in that city in construction work as a bricklayer for about six years, after which he went to Cleveland and then in 1948 came to New York, joining Local 34 of the Bricklayers Union in New York City. While in Youngstown, LAUTNER was naturalized in 1926, in the Common Pleas Court before Judge LYONS, with the witnesses being his mother and brother, MICHAEL. He stated he did not recall who his sponsor was.

After he came to New York he was employed as a bricklayer by the Tishman Realty Company, the Colon Construction Company, and the Knickerbocker Ice Company. In 1929, when there was no construction work available, he turned his union card into the union, but did odd jobs.

LAUTNER advised that he joined the Communist Party, USA the end of 1929, having met a group at the Hungarian Community Center, 350 East 81st Street, New York City, who ultimately requested him to join the Party. [redacted] whose real name was [redacted] at the Community

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b7C

Letter/Director, FBI  
NY 100-16516

Center, was [ ] for LAUTNER. According to the subject, [ ] fought with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spain and was later [ ]

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b7C

LAUTNER stated he worked with the Workers International Relief in 1929, collecting funds to aid miners of East Ohio who were on strike at that time. In 1930 a National Organizational Training School was set up by the Communist Party of New York City, and students from all over the eastern section of the United States attended this school. LAUTNER declared that he attended the school, which was held at the old Communist Party building at Union Square, and the subjects taken up at the school were basic Communist Party policies and doctrines, with the main emphasis being placed on the decisions of the Sixth World Congress, Communist Party. The school lasted from January through April, 1930, and after graduation, he was assigned to build up the Hungarian progressive movement in Detroit, arriving there in June of 1930. While in Detroit, he resided with [ ] Burdano Street, Detroit, and was in charge of the Hungarian paper, "Uj Elore", having been designated by the Hungarian National Bureau, New York City, a section of the Communist Party functioning under the National Language Department of the Communist Party, USA. He had been told that he would receive a subsidy from the Bureau, but this was never received, with the result he lived on money he received as a percentage for renewals and new subscriptions to the newspaper.

b6  
b7C

In connection with his work in the Detroit area, LAUTNER stated that he was arrested in Flint, Michigan in July, 1930, where he was covering meetings of one HORVATH, a Hungarian Communist from Akron, Ohio. He and HORVATH were arrested in the meeting hall on John Street in Flint before the meeting started, with the charge being suspicion or vagrancy. They were held for four days without charges, and were finally ordered out of Flint.

In January, 1931, MAX BEDACHT, the editor of "The Communist" at that time, came to Detroit with FRED MARINI, who worked in the National Organization Department, Nationality Group, Communist Party, USA. BEDACHT suggested that LAUTNER go to Canada for three months to fight an ideological campaign there, and he went to Hamilton, Ontario, where he worked on the re-organization of the Communist Party with TEB BUCK, later moving to Toronto.

It might be noted that LAUTNER went to Canada through Niagara Falls, to Hamilton, and while there used the name of JOHN LOVAS. He stated this was the only time he ever used any other name than JOHN LAUTNER.

LAUTNER stated that soon after he moved to Toronto, the Communist Party was declared illegal in the Province of Ontario, but even so, a National Training School was organized there, consisting of twenty-five students, which

Letter/Director, FBI  
NY 100-16516

school ran for three months. LAUTNER stated that BETTY GANNETT was one of the instructors at this school. In addition, LAUTNER edited and printed the "Canadian Hungarian Worker", the expenses for which were \$100.00 a week. His income from the paper was \$107.00 a week, leaving him \$7.00 a week as an average amount to live on.

LAUTNER advised that he was in Canada until the fall of 1932, when he returned to New York City, where he lived on any job he could get until he was assigned to Cleveland, Ohio to work on the Hungarian newspaper, "Ej Elore". While in Cleveland, he lived with JOSEPH FEJES, manager of the West Side Hungarian Center, Lorraine Avenue, an individual who went to the USSR in 1934, and to his knowledge, has not returned.

While in Cleveland, he was made secretary to the Communist Party in that city, and was also the representative of the Hungarian National Bureau in Cleveland.

He returned to New York City in 1933 and was no longer connected with the Hungarian National Bureau, but worked with his father, who was superintendent of three apartment houses at 158th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, New York City. In 1934 he became the Section Organizer for a new section on the west side of Manhattan, which was called Section 18, and was originally set up with sixty members. He worked in this section until April, 1936, during which period the membership increased to 750. In 1936 he was assigned to the West Virginia Headquarters of the Communist Party in Fairmont, West Virginia. Shortly thereafter, the headquarters of the Party were moved to Charleston, West Virginia, where he received a \$50.00 a month subsidy from the National Office, Communist Party, USA, in New York City. LAUTNER stated that the Communist Party headquarters were set up in the law office of [redacted] [redacted], a member of the Communist Party, and the address was Box 92, Charleston, West Virginia. b6 b7C

According to LAUTNER, it was the policy of the Communist Party in Charleston to gather into its ranks all of the old time Socialists in that city. He stated he built the Communist Party in West Virginia to a point where it was considered on the ballot in 1940, having been able to secure 11,000 signatures on a petition requesting a place on the above-mentioned ballot. LAUTNER continued that the Dies Committee sent representatives into the mine fields of West Virginia, and were able to secure repudiations of numerous signatures, and that 200 court actions were brought against the petition signers in order to deter the Communist Party campaign.

While in West Virginia, he met [redacted] of Chicago, with whom he lived until 1940, and whom he married at Elkton, Maryland in 1940. Both of them came to New York to attend a Party convention, after which she remained b6 b7C



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in New York City and he returned to Charleston. About four months after their marriage he secured an annulment, which took place around December, 1940.

LAUTNER stated he returned to New York City in 1940, and EARL BROWDER told him that the action of the Communist Party in West Virginia in the 1940 elections, had spurred the Communist Party activity in the other eastern states. LAUTNER recalled that among those assisting him in West Virginia during this election campaign were ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, ARNOLD JOHNSON, A. J. MUSTE, and JAMES FORD among others.

When he arrived in New York City in 1940, he was sent to a National Training School, which was held in various locations in New York City, and ran from January to May 1, 1941. Eight people attended this school, among them being [redacted] of Virginia, and [redacted] of St. Louis.

It is to be noted that the subject mentioned that [redacted] is the [redacted] the cartoonist.

The instructors at the school, according to LAUTNER, were [redacted] "POP" WINDEL, JOHN WILLIAMSON, [redacted] ROY HUDSON and [redacted].

LAUTNER advised that in 1941 there had developed a dispute in the International Workers Order between HERBERT BENJAMIN and MAX BEDACHT. BEDACHT wanted to Americanize the IWO, but BENJAMIN was opposed to this. The National Committee, Communist Party, USA, decided, according to LAUTNER, to send someone into the IWO to straighten out these difficulties. Consequently, LAUTNER was appointed Secretary of the Hungarian Commission of the IWO, and he was also in the Hungarian Commission, Communist Party, USA. Among those who were sent into the IWO at various times were [redacted] FRED MARINI and [redacted]. LAUTNER'S appointment took place in February, 1942, and his main activity in the IWO was in the war effort with the Hungarians.

In October, 1942, LAUTNER was inducted into the United States Army, serving with Army Intelligence in Bari, Italy, as a monitor and broadcaster in Hungarian matters. He was honorably discharged in the spring of 1945, and in the fall of 1945, was assigned by the National Committee, Communist Party, USA to build a Hungarian Trade Union Committee. His main purpose was to make the "Hungarian Daily Journal" the spokesman for the Communist Party. In addition, Hungarian relief became of prime importance, and JAMES MUSTIG of the UE, LOUIS WEINSTOCK of the Painters Union, and LAUTNER were put on the Board of the

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National Bureau of Hungarian Relief. However, due to a report written by LAUTNER, in which he set forth the policies of the Communist Party as to relief, the three of them were expelled from this National Bureau in 1947. He was then assigned to be Section Organizer and Regional Director of the Chelsea Section of the Communist Party, USA, New York City.

LAUTNER interposed that in 1946 he had an intermediate assignment to the Building Trades Section of New York County as an organizer for about five or six months, but was taken off this due to pressure of other work.

In 1948 he was assigned as press director for the "Daily Worker", having been recommended by [redacted], which job he only held for three or four months due to a large amount of other work he had to do. He was then appointed chairman of the New York State Review Commission, and was also a member of the National Review Commission, Communist Party, USA, in charge of security. He received a salary of \$60.00 a week, from which was deducted his Social Security and Unemployment Insurance. At this time he did not belong to any particular Communist Party branch, but paid his \$1.00 dues to [redacted], as a member at large.

With regard to the State Review Commission, LAUTNER advised it was composed of the following members, including himself: CONSTANTINE RADZI, [redacted] and [redacted]. These appointments were made by the New York State Secretariat, Communist Party, which consisted of ROBERT THOMPSON, [redacted] and BILL NORMAN. The purpose of the Review Commission, according to LAUTNER, was to carry out and safeguard the political, moral and physical aspects of the Party membership, and was considered to be an arm of the State Secretariat. He mentioned in part the disciplinary actions which were necessary to be taken against the Franklin group, the PR group, the Bill Dunn faction, the Earl Browder case, and similar "Trotskyite" phases. Another important activity on the part of the Review Commission was the struggle against white chauvinism which effected the whole Party.

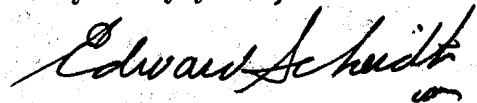
LAUTNER advised that up until January, 1950, ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG was Chairman of the National Review Committee, but that [redacted] is the [redacted] at the present time. The [redacted], while the remaining members are LOUIS WEINSTOCK, [redacted] CONSTANTINE RADZI and [redacted] LAUTNER himself was a member of this committee, but his main work was being chairman of the New York State Review Committee.

On January 17, 1950, LAUTNER was expelled from the Party. Up to the present time LAUTNER has made no mention of remuneration; however, the New York Office is giving consideration to this matter in the event he requests compensation, at which time the Bureau will be advised.

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During the course of subsequent interviews, detailed information will be secured from LAUTNER concerning the various departments of the Communist Party, USA, together with his knowledge of the organization set-up of the Party as an illegal organization in this country.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward Scheidt".

EDWARD SCHEIDT  
Special Agent in Charge

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

WASHINGTON 39 FROM NEW YORK

DIRECTOR URGENT

JOHN LAUTNER, WAS, IS - C. RENYTEL SEPT. TWENTYONE, FIFTY. SUBJ INTER-  
VIEWED THIS DATE, FURNISHED CONSIDERABLE DETAILED INFO CONCERNING SECURI-  
TY OF NY HEADQUARTERS, CPUSA. THIS INFO BEING SUBMITTED BY CONFIDENTIAL  
LETTER. SERIES OF INTERVIEWS INSTITUTED THIS DATE RE ILLEGAL PARTY  
ORGANIZATION AND TOP FUNCTIONARIES OF CP WHO INSTIGATED UNDERGROUND  
PROGRAM IN MID NINETEEN FORTY EIGHT

SCHEIDT

HLD PLS

EX-42

100-16177-46  
SEP 25 1950

5-27

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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TAM/MLT/CLS

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Belmont ✓  
Mr. Mohr ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Mr. Nease ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 46 21 9 10-30P

DIRECTOR URGENT

JOHN LAUTNER, WAS., IS - C. BUFILE ONE HUNDRED DASH ONE SIX ONE  
SEVEN SEVEN. RE NY TEL SEPT. TWENTIETH FIFTY. SUBJECT REINTERVIEWED  
THIS DATE. FURNISHED INFORMATION CONCERNING ALTERNATE NATIONAL COMM-  
ITTEE, ALTERNATE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE AND PROBABLE MEMBERS OF THESE  
COMMITTEES. SUBJECT SUBMITTED CHART SHOWING UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION  
OF CP AS PLANNED IN FALL OF NINETEEN FORTY NINE. LAUTNER ADVISED  
THAT ONE [ ] AND ONE [ ] ALSO KNOWN AS [ ] POSSIBLE  
DEFECTEES, ALSO THAT CP WAS SUSPICIOUS OF FOLLOWING CP MEMBERS AS  
POSSIBLE FBI INFORMANTS, [ ].  
SUBJECT SUBMITTED NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS HANDLING CP SECURITY  
MEASURES NYC. ALSO ADVISED METHODS EMPLOYED BY CP TO INSURE SECURITY  
AT MEETINGS AND AT CP HEADQUARTERS, NYC. LAUTNER TO BE REINTERVIEWED  
SEPT. TWENTYSECOND FIFTY. DETAILED LETTER WILL FOLLOW.

HOLD PLS

INDEXED - 95

SCHEIDT

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
New York 7, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-20-2005

**CANCELLED**

October 9, 1950

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Director, FBI

RE: JOHN LAUTNER, was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(Bureau File 100-16177)

*Cancel*

Dear Sir:

As the Bureau is aware, the subject has been located and interviewed. Through these interviews it has been ascertained that the subject has not been in contact with Communist Party members since January 17, 1950, at which time he was expelled from the Communist Party, U. S. A., accused of being "an enemy agent". The results of these interviews with the subject have been forwarded to the Bureau.

In view of the above, subject is no longer considered a key figure, and this case will be carried in a Closed Status.

The Bureau is requested to authorize cancellation of the subject's Security Index Card.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Schacht*  
EDWARD SCHACHT, SAC

*File to R.F.  
cancel  
adv. N.Y.*

RECORDED

100-16177-48

OCT 10 1950

EX-26

cc: 66-3901  
100-96900

10-23-50

100-16516

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

TELETYPE

WASH FROM NEW YORK 1  
DIRECTOR URGENT

25

11-44 A

1-31-84 SP5 RJG/PMC

JOHN LAUTNER, WAS., ISC. RENYTEL SEPT. TWENTYSECOND, NINETEEN  
FIFTY . SUBJECT HAS BEEN GIVEN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT SYMBOL  
NUMBER ND FIVE EIGHT EIGHT . ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED WILL BE  
FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU AS EMANATING FROM ND FIVE EIGHT EIGHT.  
INTERVIEWS WITH INFORMANT CONTINUING IN AN ENDEAVOR TO COVER  
ALL PERTINENT PHASES OF CP ACTIVITY AS WELL AS ESPIONAGE ACT-  
IVITY. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF DETAILS.

SCHEIDT  
14 1950  
HOLD PLS

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Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

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DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

WASH FROM NEW YORK 15 28 10-14A  
DIRECTOR URGENT

INFORMATION FURNISHED BY NY CIND FIVE EIGHT EIGHT. RENVTEL SEPTEMBER  
TWENTYEIGHT, FIVE ZERO EIGHT AM. MAKE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS. PAGE  
TWO, LINE THREE, "IT WAS OBVIOUS TO THE INFORMANT THAT WILLIAMSON  
WAS MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT J. PETERS TROUBLE PRIOR TO HIS LEAVING THE  
U.S." LINE SIXTEEN, "SUBSEQUENT TO THE TIME OF HIS DETROIT ACTIVITIES."  
PAGE THREE, LINES EIGHT, TEN AND ELEVEN, SUBSTITUTE NAME J. PETERS  
FOR [REDACTED] PAGE SIX, LINE FIVE, "CHESTER FURTHER INDICATED TO  
INFORMANT THAT BROTHMAN WAS GOING TO SWITZERLAND /NINETEEN FORTYNINE/  
AND UPON HIS RETURN WOULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
PARTY." PAGE EIGHT, LINE SIX, "HE RECOGNIZED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MOISCHE  
STERN AS GENERAL EMIL KLAEBER." PAGE NINE, LINE FOUR, "HE STATED THAT  
WHENEVER A PERSON ENTERED NELSON-S OFFICE."

SCHEIDT

END

NY R 15 WA JAK

100-16177-50  
347+

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OCT 13

FIVE



Brothman, A.

23-12

No

100-16177-51

pgs. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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Pertinent Pages

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11-05

No

testified

in court.

Sobell, M.

21-09

No

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓

10-5-87  
 3042/PWT/CLK #861840  
 SEP 28 1950  
 pgp. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 only +  
 Contains nothing  
 classifiable

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
 28 TAM/MLT/CLS

WASHINGTON 13 FROM NEW YORK

DIRECTOR URGENT

Miss Gandy  
*Laughton*

INFO FURNISHED BY NY CIND FIVE EIGHT EIGHT. INFT INTERVIEWED THIS DATE  
 NYO RE KNOWLEDGE OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES. HAS NO INFO RE ACTIVITIES  
 OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES IN THE U. S. HAS NO SPECIFIC INFO  
 RE THE CP APPARATUS NOR EXTENT THE CP IS UTILIZED BY SOVIET INTELLIGENCE.  
 HAS NO INFO RE ANY CP CONNECTION WITH COMINTERN APPARATUS. HAS NO INFO  
 RE CP CONNECTION WITH EMBASSY OR CONSULATES OR ANY PARTY ORGANIZERS  
 OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE. HAS NO SPECIFIC INFO RE COVER COMPANIES OF CP.  
 HOWEVER IT IS HIS OPINION THAT WILLIE WEINER, NATIONAL CP FINANCIAL  
 HEAD, MAY OPERATE SOME COVER COMPANIES. INFO RE THIS IS SET  
 OUT IN SEPARATE TEL. HAS NO INFO RE ANY CP INTELLIGENCE AGENTS IN  
 UN. IN THIS CONNECTION HE STATES THAT ANY CP MEMBERS EMPLOYED AT THE  
 UN AUTOMATICALLY BECOME MEMBERS AT LARGE. ADVISED THAT DURING THE BROW-  
 DER REGIME, BROWDER HIMSELF WAS THE LIAISON BETWEEN THE CP UNDERGROUND  
 AND THE OPEN PARTY. ROY HUDSON OR JACK STACHEL MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE  
 IN THIS REGARD DURING THIS PERIOD INASMUCH AS THEY WERE THE CLOSEST  
 INDIVIDUALS TO BROWDER. SINCE THE BROWDER PERIOD, THE INFT BELIEVES  
 THAT JOHNNY WILLIAMSON TO BE THE PARTY FUNCTIONARY WHO ACTS AS LIAISON  
 BETWEEN THE CP UNDERGROUND AND THE CP OPEN PARTY AND TO SOME

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 6 DEC 5 1950  
 END PAGE ONE

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 INDEXED (M)  
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 OCT 26 1950

PAGE TWO

EXTENT ALSO JACK KLING, CP FUNCTIONARY. INFT STATES THAT WILLIAMSON WAS VERY CLOSE TO JAY PETERS, THAT WILLIAMSON WAS WELL AWARE OF PETERS- ACTIVITIES. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO THE INFT THAT WILLIAMSON WAS MUCH CONCERNED WITH JAY PETERS, DURING THIS PERIOD [REDACTED]

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WAS WITH WILLIAMSON DAILY. ON ONE OCCASION WILLIAMSON ASKED THE INFT IF HE KNEW ANYBODY TRAVELLING TO SOUTH AMERICA. THE INFT HAD NO OTHER

INFO RE THIS INCIDENT. THE INFT RECALLED THAT [REDACTED]

DISTRICT FUNCTIONARY IN NYC IN THIRTY. AT THAT TIME JAY PETERS WAS

CP ORGANIZER IN NYC. ACCORDING TO THE INFT, [REDACTED] TOOK [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AWAY FROM HIM AND A TERRIFIC FIGHT ENSUED BETWEEN

[REDACTED] AND PETERS. IMMED THEREAFTER [REDACTED] WENT TO DETROIT WHERE HE ACTED

AS DISTRICT ORGANIZER. WHILE IN DETROIT HE TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN THE QUOTE FORD HUNGER MARCH UNQUOTE AND WAS THEREAFTER INDICTED. [REDACTED]

SKIPPED AND IMMED WENT UNDERCOVER. ACCORDING TO THE INFT, IT WAS PREVAILING GOSSIP IN THIRTY FIVE OR SIX THAT [REDACTED] WAS THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE IN CANADA. AT THE TIME OF HIS DETROIT ACTIVITIES,

[REDACTED] TOOK NO OPEN PART IN CP ACTIVITIES EXCEPT TO TEACH IN A SMALL PARTY SCHOOL IN [REDACTED] NY. IN FORTY ONE [REDACTED] GAVE LECTURES ON CHINA AT THE CP NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL. IN THE SPRING OF FORTY NINE, [REDACTED] TOLD THE INFT THAT [REDACTED] HAD BECOME A

END PAGE TWO

10-16197-53

PAGE THREE

TITOITE AND HAD LEFT THE U. S. FOR YUGOSLOVIA. THE INFT DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH BETTY GANETT, NATIONAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR, CP.

GANETT DISMISSED THE RUMOR ABRUPTLY AND TOLD THE INFT TO QUOTE FORGET ABOUT IT UNQUOTE. ON THE BASIS OF BETTY GANETT-S REACTION, THE INFORMANT HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS A FALSE RUMOR AND THAT [ ] WAS ACTUALLY SENT TO YUGOSLOVIA AS A QUOTE PLANT UNQUOTE. THE INFT HAS NO INFO RE ANY PASSPORT RINGS THAT WERE OPERATING IN CONNECTION WITH THE CP, BUT CITED THE CASE OF [ ] AS AN INDICATION AS TO HOW CP MEMBERS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN LEAVING THE U. S. HE STATED THAT IN THE CASE OF [ ] HE WENT TO THE HUNGARIAN COUNCIL AND OBTAINED A PASSPORT FROM THE CONSULATE INDICATING THAT [ ] WAS A SUBJ OF THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT THIS COULD POSSIBLY BE DONE WITH ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER CONSULATES. HE SAID HOWEVER ANY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THESE CONSULATES WOULD HAVE TO BE EFFECTED THROUGH HIGH FUNCTIONARIES AT THE CP HEADQUARTERS, SUCH AS EUGENE DENNIS OR JOHNNY WILLIAMSON. THE INFT STATED THAT HE HAD NO INFO RE ANY SPECIFIC INSTANCE OF MONEY HAVING BEEN FURNISHED TO A CP MEMBER TO LEAVE THE U. S. SURREPTITIOUSLY. HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE CP FUNCTIONARY WHO WOULD FURNISH MONEY FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE WAS CONVINCED HOWEVER THAT SUCH A TRANSACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED THROUGH EUGENE DENNIS. THE INFT STATED THAT HE HAD NO SPECIFIC INFO RE THE USE BY THE CP OF

10-1177-50

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

PERSONAL COURIERS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. HE STATED HOWEVER <sup>A</sup>THAT THE PARTY UNDOUBTEDLY USED CP FUNCTIONARIES AND SYMPATHIZERS AS COURIERS IN THIS REGARD. HE ALSO STATED THAT SEAMEN WERE USED EXTENSIVELY BY THE PARTY FOR ALL PURPOSES. THE INFT STATED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE RE ANY CONNECTION OF THE AMTORY TRADING CORP. WITH THE CP IN THE MATTER OF ESPIONAGE. HE HAD NO INFO RE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BY AMTORG THROUGH THE PARTY TO ESPIONAGE AGENTS. THE INFT STATED THAT ALL PEOPLE WHO WORKED FOR AMTORG IN THE EARLY THIRTIES WERE CUT OFF FROM THE PARTY AND BECAME MEMBERS AT LARGE. HE STATED HOWEVER THAT ISADORE NEEDLEMAN, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WAS CONNECTED WITH THE AMTORY TRADING CORPORATION AS COUNSEL, MUST HAVE BEEN IN QUOTE ON A LOT OF DEALS UNQUOTE. NEEDLEMAN HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE CP OTHER THEN THAT. THE INFT STATED THAT WHEN NEEDLEMAN-S NAME CAME OUT IN THE [REDACTED] CASE AS HAVING BEEN SUSPECTED OF FURNISHING INFO TO THE GOVERNMENT, SUSPICION WAS IMMEDIATELY CAST ON NEEDLEMAN BY THE CP FUNCTIONARIES. HE STATED THAT THIS MAY BE THE REASON FOR NEEDLEMAN-S CONNECTION WITH THE AMTORY TRADING CORP. HAVING BEEN SEVERED. HE STATED HOWEVER THAT THERE WAS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THAT NEEDLEMAN HAD A FEAR THAT HE MIGHT BE PROSECUTED UNDER THE REGISTRATION ACT. THE INFT ALSO STATED THAT HE HEARD FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, QUEENS COUNTY CP, WHOSE NAME HE COULD NOT RECALL, THAT [REDACTED] HAD A BROTHER OR A FIRST COUSIN

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b7C

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

WHO WAS A CP MEMBER AND THAT WHEN THE [ ] CASE BROKE, THIS INDIVIDUAL WENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR AND REQUESTED ADVICE AS TO WHAT HE SHOULD DO ABOUT HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP. THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED AT CP HEADQUARTERS AND THE DECISION WAS THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL SHOULD DROP OUT OF THE PARTY. THE INFT ADVISED THAT ABE BROTHMAN WAS NOT IN A BRANCH BUT WAS A MEMBER AT LARGE. HE WAS RESPONSIBLE TO BERNIE CHESTER DURING THE WAR YEARS AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO [ ] IN THIS CONNECTION THE INFT STATED THAT HE RECALLED ONE INCIDENT WHERE ONE [ ] FNU, AND ANOTHER UNKNOWN GIRL, WHO WERE ACTIVE IN THE HETTI LAPATINE CLUB IN THE CHELSEA AREA BRANCH OF THE CP, INVITED BROTHMAN TO A BRANCH MEETING IN FORTY EIGHT AT WHICH MEETING BROTHMAN ATTACKED THE PARTY AND DEFENDED EARL BROWDER. IN FORTY EIGHT AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CP THESE TWO GIRLS INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION THAT WAS CRITICAL OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. IN THE SPRING OF FORTY NINE THESE TWO GIRLS WERE NOT REGISTERED BY THE PARTY AND BROTHMAN WANTED TO COMPOSE HIS DIFFERENCES WITH THE PARTY, HE THEREFORE SENT AN UNKNOWN EMISSARY AND ISADORE NEEDLEMAN TO PARTY HEADQUARTERS TO SEE CHESTER AND PLEAD WITH CHESTER TO GO TO BROTHMAN-S HOME TO SETTLE THE DIFFERENCES. AFTER SOME HESITATION CHESTER ACQUIESCED AND, ACCORDING TO THE INFT, THE MATTER MUST HAVE BEEN SMOOTHED OVER BECAUSE NO

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END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

FURTHER ACTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST ~~BROTHMAN~~. THIS INFO WAS FURNISHED TO THE INFT BY CHESTER. CHESTER FURTHER INDICATED THAT BROTHMAN WAS ONE OF THE BEST PLASTIC CHEMISTS IN THE COUNTRY AND HE HAD HELPED THE CP MOVEMENT CONSIDERABLY. HE INDICATED THAT BROTHMAN HAD PREVIOUSLY CONTRIBUTED FUNDS TO THE PARTY. CHESTER FURTHER INDICATED TO THE INFT THAT BROTHMAN ~~WOULD GO~~ TO SWITZERLAND AND UPON HIS RETURN WOULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARTY. CHESTER FURTHER TOLD THE INFT THAT BROTHMAN WAS NOT A FIRM INDIVIDUAL, THAT HE WAS JITTERY ALL THE TIME. FOR EXAMPLE HE TOLD THE INFT OF AN INCIDENT IN FORTY FOUR OR FORTY FIVE IN A RESTAURANT IN NYC WHEN BROTHMAN WAS GIVING SOMETHING TO CHESTER AND AT THAT MOMENT A FLASHBULB WENT OFF IN THE ROOM. BROTHMAN WAS WORRIED THAT A PHOTO MIGHT HAVE BEEN TAKEN OF THEM. THE INFT FURTHER STATED THAT CHESTER WAS DEFINITELY CONNECTED WITH JACOB GOLOS. THE INFT ADVISED THAT IN FORTY ONE WHILE ATTENDING NATIONAL CP TRAINING SCHOOL ONE OF THE LECTURERS WAS AN UNKNOWN PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. HIS SUBJ WAS DIALECTICS OF NATURE. THIS PROFESSOR BRAGGED TO THE CLASS HOW HE FREQUENTLY MADE TRIPS TO THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY AT SCHNECTADY, NY, TO WORK ON THE SMASHING OF THE ATOMS. THE INFT STATED THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL MUST HAVE BEEN A PARTY MEMBER IN ORDER TO TEACH IN THIS SCHOOL. AS TO SECRET ASSIGN-

END PAGE SIX

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PAGE SEVEN

MENTS OF PARTY MEMBERS, THE INFT RECALLED THAT A YALE GRADUATE SPENT SEVERAL YEARS IN SOUTH AMERICA, EITHER IN BRAZIL OR ARGENTINA, IN CP WORK FROM THIRTY FIVE OR THIRTY SIX. THIS INDIVIDUAL IN THE EARLY THIRTIES WAS THE EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE CONNECTICUT CP UNDER [REDACTED]. HE STATED THAT BEFORE GOING TO S. A. THIS INDIVIDUAL SPENT SOMETIME ON THE NINTH FLOOR AT CP HEADQUARTERS. HE WAS CONSIDERED A VERY VALUABLE PERSON. HE STATED THAT HE HAS RETURNED TO THE U. S. AND HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEEN QUOTE OUT OF THE PICTURE UNQUOTE. THIS INDIVIDUAL IS APPARENTLY PRESENTLY A RESPECTABLE BUSINESSMAN IN NYC. HOWEVER THE INFT SUSPECTS THAT HE IS NOW INVOLVED IN UNDERCOVER WORK FOR THE CP. HE STATED THAT HE CONTINUES TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH CP MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY [REDACTED] FUNCTIONARY, QUEENS COUNTY CP, AND WITH ONE [REDACTED] LNU, AND THE LATTER-S WIFE. [REDACTED] ROTOGRAPH COMPANY, NYC, A CP OWNED PRINTING FIRM. PARENTHESIS THIS COMPANY IN TEL DATED SEPT TWENTY FIVE LAST WAS ERRONEOUSLY REFERRED TO AS ROTOCRAFT PARENTHESIS. PHOTOGRAPHS OF SEVERAL ESPIONAGE SUBJECTS IN THE NYO WERE EXHIBITED TO THE INFT AND IN MOST INSTANCES THE INFT FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THESE INDIVIDUALS. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT HE DEFINITELY RECOGNIZED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MORTON SOBELL, CONNECTING HIM WITH THE

b6  
b7C

END PAGE SEVEN



PAGE EIGHT

COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN THE THIRTIES. HE COULD NOT FURTHER PLACE SOBELL  
IN THIS MOVEMENT. HE INDICATED THAT THE PHOTOGRAPH OF [REDACTED]  
WAS VERY FAMILIAR, PLACING HER IN THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN THE LOWER  
EAST SIDE, NYC. PHOTOGRAPHS OF [REDACTED]  
WERE FAMILIAR TO THE INFT. HE COULD FURNISH NO INFO RE THEIR ACTIVITIES.  
HE RECOGNIZED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MOISCHE STERN AS GERNAL ~~EMO KLABER~~.  
THE INFT STATED THAT HE BELIEVED HE SAW KLABER IN CANADA EITHER IN  
THIRTY ONE OR THIRTY TWO. DURING THAT PERIOD THE INFT WAS ENGAGED IN  
CP WORK IN CANADA. THE INFT STATED THAT WHEN STEVE NELSON RETURNED  
TO THE U. S. AFTER A DISTINGUISHED RECORD IN THE SPANISH WAR, HE WAS  
IMMED PLACED ON THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE BY EARL BROWDER. HE SUBSEQUENTLY  
WAS DESIGNATED TO ACT AS PARTY ORGANIZER IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA. THE  
INFT WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THIS POSITION WAS A MOST INSIGNIFICANT  
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NELSON WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH WILLIAMSON AND EUGENE DENNIS. HE  
BECAME THE HEAD OF THE NATIONALITY GROUP, CP, AND WAS PARTICULARLY  
INTERESTED IN THE YUGOSLAV SITUATION. THE INFT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY  
CONNECTION OF NELSON WITH [REDACTED] HE ASSUMED, HOWEVER, THAT NELSON

END PAGE EIGHT

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PAGE NINE

WAS AWARE OF  LOCATION IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY. THE INFT b6  
b7C  
RECALLED ON ONE OCCASION WHEN IN NELSON-S OFFICE, A SEAMAN BROUGHT A  
BATCH OF PAPERS TO NELSON FROM JAPAN. THEY WERE JAPANESE CP NEW<sup>S</sup>PAPERS.  
HE STATED THAT WHENEVER A PERSON ENTERED ~~DENNIS~~ OFFICE, HE IMMEDIATELY PUT  
HIS TELEPHONE IN HIS DESK DRAWER AS A SECURITY MEASURE.

SCHEIDT

ACK AND HLD PLS

WA NY R 13 WA DCL

*cc: Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Tamm*

*CARSON COPY  
no act  
9-28-50  
AD*

SEP 28 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

WASHINGTON 13 FROM NEW YORK 23 508 A

~~DIRECTOR~~ U R G E N T

INFO FURNISHED BY NY CIND FIVE EIGHT EIGHT. INFT INTERVIEWED THIS DATE  
NYC RE KNOWLEDGE OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES. HAS NO INFO RE ACTIVITIES  
OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES IN THE U. S. HAS NO SPECIFIC INFO  
RE THE CP APPARATUS NOR EXTENT THE CP IS UTILIZED BY SOVIET INTELLIGENCE.  
HAS NO INFO RE ANY CP CONNECTION WITH COMINTERN APPARATUS. HAS NO INFO  
RE CP CONNECTION WITH EMBASSY OR CONSULATES OR ANY PARTY ORGANIZERS  
OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE. HAS NO SPECIFIC INFO RE COVER COMPANIES OF C.  
HOWEVER IT IS HIS OPINION THAT WILLIE WEINER, NATIONAL CP FINANCIAL  
HEAD, MAY OPERATE SOME COVER COMPANIES. INFO RE THIS IS SET  
OUT IN SEPARATE TEL. HAS NO INFO RE ANY CP INTELLIGENCE AGENTS IN  
UN. IN THIS CONNECTION HE STATES THAT ANY CP MEMBERS EMPLOYED AT THE  
UN AUTOMATICALLY BECOME MEMBERS AT LARGE. ADVISED THAT DURING THE BROW-  
DER REGIME, BROWDER HIMSELF WAS THE LIAISON BETWEEN THE CP UNDERGROUND  
AND THE OPEN PARTY. ROY HUDSON OR JACK STACHEL MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE  
IN THIS REGARD DURING THIS PERIOD INASMUCH AS THEY WERE THE CLOSEST  
INDIVIDUALS TO BROWDER. SINCE THE BROWDER PERIOD, THE INFT BELIEVES  
THAT JOHNNY WILLIAMSON TO BE THE PARTY FUNCTIONARY WHO ACTS AS LIAISON  
BETWEEN THE CP UNDERGROUND AND THE CP OPEN PARTY AND TO SOME

END PAGE ONE

*3042/PWT/CLK 10.5.87  
pgs. 1,5,6,7,8 only & extras  
nothing classifiable.*

*Eiffel*

PAGE TWO

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EXTENT ALSO JACK KLING, CP FUNCTIONARY. INFT STATES THAT WILLIAMSON WAS VERY CLOSE TO JAY PETERS, THAT WILLIAMSON WAS WELL AWARE OF PETERS-  
\* ACTIVITIES. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO THE INFT THAT WILLIAMSON WAS MUCH CONCERNED <sup>ABOUT J. TROUBLE PRIOR TO HIS LEAVING THE U.S.</sup> WITH JAY PETERS, DURING THIS PERIOD [REDACTED]

WAS WITH WILLIAMSON DAILY. ON ONE OCCASION WILLIAMSON ASKED THE INFT IF HE KNEW ANYBODY TRAVELLING TO SOUTH AMERICA. THE INFT HAD NO OTHER INFO RE THIS INCIDENT. THE INFT RECALLED THAT [REDACTED] BECAME A DISTRICT FUNCTIONARY IN NYC IN THIRTY. AT THAT TIME JAY PETERS WAS A CP ORGANIZER IN NYC. ACCORDING TO THE INFT, [REDACTED] TOOK [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AWAY FROM HIM AND A TERRIFIC FIGHT ENSUED BETWEEN [REDACTED]. IMMED THEREAFTER [REDACTED] WENT TO DETROIT WHERE HE ACTED AS DISTRICT ORGANIZER. WHILE IN DETROIT HE TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN THE QUOTE FORD HUNGER MARCH UNQUOTE AND WAS THEREAFTER INDICTED. [REDACTED]

SKIIPPED AND IMMED WENT UNDERCOVER. ACCORDING TO THE INFT, IT WAS PREVAILING GOSSIP IN THIRTY FIVE OR SIX THAT [REDACTED] WAS THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE IN CANADA. <sup>SUBSEQUENT TO</sup> AT THE TIME OF HIS DETROIT ACTIVITIES, \*

[REDACTED] TOOK NO OPEN PART IN CP ACTIVITIES EXCEPT TO TEACH IN A SMALL PARTY SCHOOL IN [REDACTED] NY. IN FORTY ONE [REDACTED] GAVE LECTURES ON CHINA AT THE CP NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL. IN THE SPRING OF FORTY NINE, [REDACTED] TOLD THE INFT THAT [REDACTED] HAD BECOME A

END PAGE TWO

9-28  
\* CHANGES PER N.Y. TEL. 9/28/50, 10:14 A.M.  
ENT. AS THIS TEL.

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PAGE THREE

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TITOITE AND HAD LEFT THE U. S. FOR YUGOSLOVIA. THE INFT DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH BETTY GANETT, NATIONAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR, CP.

GANETT DISMISSED THE RUMOR ABRUPTLY AND TOLD THE INFT TO QUOTE FORGET ABOUT IT UNQUOTE. ON THE BASIS OF BETTY GANETT-S REACTION, THE INFORMANT HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS A FALSE RUMOR AND THAT [REDACTED] WAS ACTUALLY SENT TO YUGOSLOVIA AS A QUOTE PLANT UNQUOTE. THE INFT HAS

NO INFO RE ANY PASSPORT RINGS THAT WERE OPERATING IN CONNECTION WITH THE CP, BUT CITED THE CASE OF <sup>J. PETERS</sup> [REDACTED] AS AN INDICATION AS TO HOW CP

\* { MEMBERS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN LEAVING THE U. S. HE STATED THAT IN THE CASE OF <sup>J. PETERS</sup> [REDACTED] HE WENT TO THE HUNGARIAN COUNCIL AND OBTAINED A PASSPORT FROM THE CONSULATE INDICATING THAT <sup>PETERS</sup> [REDACTED] WAS A SUBJ OF THE

COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT THIS COULD POSSIBLY BE DONE WITH ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER CONSULATES. HE SAID HOWEVER ANY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THESE CONSULATES WOULD HAVE TO BE EFFECTED THROUGH HIGH FUNCTIONARIES AT THE CP HEADQUARTERS, SUCH AS EUGENE DENNIS OR JOHNNY WILLIAMSON. THE INFT STATED THAT HE HAD NO INFO RE ANY SPECIFIC INSTANCE OF MONEY HAVING BEEN FURNISHED TO A CP MEMBER TO LEAVE THE U. S. SURREPTITIOUSLY. HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE CP FUNCTIONARY WHO WOULD FURNISH MONEY FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE WAS CONVINCED HOWEVER THAT SUCH A TRANSACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED THROUGH EUGENE DENNIS. THE INFT STATED THAT HE HAD NO SPECIFIC INFO RE THE USE BY THE CP OF

END PAGE THREE

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\* CHANGES PER N.Y. TEL. 9/28/50, 10:14 A.M.  
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PAGE FOUR

PERSONAL COURIERS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. HE STATED HOWEVER <sup>4</sup>THAT THE PARTY UNDOUBTEDLY USED CP FUNCTIONARIES AND SYMPATHIZERS AS COURIERS IN THIS REGARD. HE ALSO STATED THAT SEAMEN WERE USED EXTENSIVELY BY THE PARTY FOR ALL PURPOSES. THE INFT STATED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE RE ANY CONNECTION OF THE AMTORG TRADING CORP. WITH THE CP IN THE MATTER OF ESPIONAGE. HE HAD NO INFO RE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BY AMTORG THROUGH THE PARTY TO ESPIONAGE AGENTS. THE INFT STATED THAT ALL PEOPLE WHO WORKED FOR AMTORG IN THE EARLY THIRTIES WERE CUT OFF FROM THE PARTY AND BECAME MEMBERS AT LARGE. HE STATED HOWEVER THAT ISADORE NEEDLEMAN, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WAS CONNECTED WITH THE AMTORY TRADING CORPORATION AS COUNSEL, MUST HAVE BEEN IN QUOTE ON A LOT OF DEALS UNQUOTE. NEEDLEMAN HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE CP OTHER THEN b6  
b7C THAT. THE INFT STATED THAT WHEN NEEDLEMAN-S NAME CAME OUT IN THE [REDACTED] CASE AS HAVING BEEN SUSPECTED OF FURNISHING INFO TO THE GOVERNMENT, SUSPICION WAS IMMED CAST ON NEEDLEMAN BY THE CP FUNCTIONARIES. HE STATED THAT THIS MAY BE THE REASON FOR NEEDLEMAN-S CONNECTION WITH THE AMTORY TRADING CORP. HAVING BEEN SEVERED. HE STATED HOWEVER THAT THERE WAS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THAT NEEDLEMAN HAD A FEAR THAT HE MIGHT BE PROSECUTED UNDER THE REGISTRATION ACT. THE INFT ALSO STATED THAT HE HEARD FROM THE [REDACTED] QUEENS COUNTY CP, WHOSE NAME HE COULD NOT RECALL, THAT [REDACTED] HAD A BROTHER OR A FIRST COUSIN

END PAGE FOUR

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WHO WAS A CP MEMBER AND THAT WHEN THE [ ] CASE BROKE, THIS INDIVIDUAL WENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR AND REQUESTED ADVICE AS TO WHAT HE SHOULD DO ABOUT HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP. THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED AT CP HEADQUARTERS AND THE DECISION WAS THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL SHOULD DROP OUT OF THE PARTY. THE INFT ADVISED THAT ADE BROTHMAN WAS NOT IN A BRANCH BUT WAS A MEMBER AT LARGE. HE WAS RESPONSIBLE TO BERNIE CHESTER DURING THE WAR YEARS AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO [ ] IN THIS CONNECTION THE INFT STATED THAT HE RECALLED ONE INCIDENT WHERE ONE [ ], FNU, AND ANOTHER UNKNOWN GIRL, WHO WERE ACTIVE IN THE HETTI LAFATINE CLUB IN THE CHELSEA AREA BRANCH OF THE CP, INVITED BROTHMAN TO A BRANCH MEETING IN FORTY EIGHT AT WHICH MEETING BROTHMAN ATTACKED THE PARTY AND DEFENDED EARL BROWDER. IN FORTY EIGHT AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CP THESE TWO GIRLS INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION THAT WAS CRITICAL OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. IN THE SPRING OF FORTY NINE THESE TWO GIRLS WERE NOT REGISTERED BY THE PARTY AND BROTHMAN WANTED TO COMPOSE HIS DIFFERENCES WITH THE PARTY, HE THEREFORE SENT AN UNKNOWN EMISSARY AND ISADORE NEEDLEMAN TO PARTY HEADQUARTERS TO SEE CHESTER AND PLEAD WITH CHESTER TO GO TO BROTHMAN-S HOME TO SETTLE THE DIFFERENCES. AFTER SOME HESITATION CHESTER ACQUIESCED AND, ACCORDING TO THE INFT, THE MATTER MUST HAVE BEEN SMOOTHED OVER BECAUSE NO

END PAGE FIVE

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FURTHER ACTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST BROTHMAN. THIS INFO WAS FURNISHED TO THE INFT BY CHESTER. CHESTER FURTHER INDICATED THAT BROTHMAN WAS ONE OF THE BEST PLASTIC CHEMISTS IN THE COUNTRY AND HE HAD HELPED THE CP MOVEMENT CONSIDERABLY. HE INDICATED THAT BROTHMAN HAD PREVIOUSLY CONTRIBUTED FUNDS TO THE PARTY. CHESTER FURTHER INDICATED TO THE INFT THAT BROTHMAN <sup>WAS GOING</sup> ~~WOULD GO~~ TO SWITZERLAND <sup>(1949)</sup> AND UPON HIS RETURN WOULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARTY. CHESTER FURTHER TOLD THE INFT THAT BROTHMAN WAS NOT A FIRM INDIVIDUAL, THAT HE WAS JITTERY ALL THE TIME. FOR EXAMPLE HE TOLD THE INFT OF AN INCIDENT IN FORTY FOUR OR FORTY FIVE IN A RESTAURANT IN NYC WHEN BROTHMAN WAS GIVING SOMETHING TO CHESTER AND AT THAT MOMENT A FLASHBULB WENT OFF IN THE ROOM. BROTHMAN WAS WORRIED <sup>A</sup> ~~THAT~~ A PHOTO MIGHT HAVE BEEN TAKEN OF THEM. THE INFT FURTHER STATED THAT CHESTER WAS DEFINITELY CONNECTED WITH JACOB GOLOS. THE INFT ADVISED THAT IN FORTY ONE WHILE ATTENDING NATIONAL CP TRAINING SCHOOL ONE OF THE LECTURERS WAS AN UNKNOWN PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. HIS SUBJ WAS DIALECTICS OF NATURE. THIS PROFESSOR BRAGGED TO THE CLASS HOW HE FREQUENTLY MADE TRIPS TO THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY AT SCHNECTADY, NY, TO WORK ON THE SMASHING OF THE ATOMS. THE INFT STATED THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL MUST HAVE BEEN A PARTY MEMBER IN ORDER TO TEACH IN THIS SCHOOL. AS TO SECRET ASSIGN-

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\* CHANGES PER N.Y. TEL. 9/28/50, 10:14 A.M.  
ENT. AS THIS TEL.

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PAGE SEVEN

MENTS OF PARTY MEMBERS, THE INFT RECALLED THAT A YALE GRADUATE SPENT SEVERAL YEARS IN SOUTH AMERICA, EITHER IN BRAZIL OR ARGENTINA, IN CP WORK FROM THIRTY FIVE OR THIRTY SIX. THIS INDIVIDUAL IN THE EARLY THIRTIES WAS THE EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE CONNECTICUT CP UNDER [REDACTED] HE STATED THAT BEFORE GOING TO S. A. THIS INDIVIDUAL SPENT SOMETIME ON THE NINTH FLOOR AT CP HEADQUARTERS. HE WAS CONSIDERED A VERY VALUABLE PERSON. HE STATED THAT HE HAS RETURNED TO THE U. S. AND HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEEN QUOTE OUT OF THE PICTURE UNQUOTE. THIS INDIVIDUAL IS APPARENTLY PRESENTLY A RESPECTABLE BUSINESSMAN IN NYC. HOWEVER THE INFT SUSPECTS THAT HE IS NOW INVOLVED IN UNDERCOVER WORK FOR THE CP. HE STATED THAT HE CONTINUES TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH CP MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY [REDACTED] FUNCTIONARY, QUEENS COUNTY CP, AND WITH ONE [REDACTED] LNU, AND [REDACTED] ROTOGRAPH COMPANY, NYC, A CP OWNED PRINTING FIRM. PARENTHESIS THIS COMPANY IN TEL DATED SEPT TWENTY FIVE LAST WAS ERRONEOUSLY REFERRED TO AS ROTOCRAFT PARENTHESIS. PHOTOGRAPHS OF SEVERAL ESPIONAGE SUBJECTS IN THE NYO WERE EXHIBITED TO THE INFT AND IN MOST INSTANCES THE INFT FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THESE INDIVIDUALS. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT HE DEFINITELY RECOGNIZED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MORTON SOBELL, CONNECTING HIM WITH THE

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END PAGE SEVEN

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COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN THE THIRTIES. HE COULD NOT FURTHER PLACE SOBELL IN THIS MOVEMENT. HE INDICATED THAT THE PHOTOGRAPH OF [REDACTED]

WAS VERY FAMILIAR, PLACING HER IN THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN THE LOWER EAST SIDE, NYC. PHOTOGRAPHS OF [REDACTED]

WERE FAMILIAR TO THE INFT. HE COULD FURNISH NO INFO RE THEIR ACTIVITIES.

\* HE RECOGNIZED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MOISCHE STERN AS GERNAL ~~AND~~ <sup>ENIL KLATNER.</sup> ~~KLATNER.~~

THE INFT STATED THAT HE BELIEVED HE SAW KLABER IN CANADA EITHER IN THIRTY ONE OR THIRTY TWO. DURING THAT PERIOD THE INFT WAS ENGAGED IN CP WORK IN CANADA. THE INFT STATED THAT WHEN STEVE NELSON RETURNED TO THE U. S. AFTER A DISTINGUISHED RECORD IN THE SPANISH WAR, HE WAS IMMEDIATELY PLACED ON THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE BY EARL BROWDER. HE SUBSEQUENTLY WAS DESIGNATED TO ACT AS PARTY ORGANIZER IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA. THE INFT WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THIS POSITION WAS A MOST INSIGNIFICANT PARTY JOB FOR A MAN OF THE ABILITY OF NELSON. HE WAS OF THE BELIEF THAT THERE WAS GOOD REASON FOR THIS. AFTER EARL BROWDER WAS DEPOSED, NELSON WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH WILLIAMSON AND EUGENE DENNIS. HE BECAME THE HEAD OF THE NATIONALITY GROUP, CP, AND WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE YUGOSLAV SITUATION. THE INFT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY CONNECTION OF NELSON WITH [REDACTED] HE ASSUMED, HOWEVER, THAT NELSON

END PAGE EIGHT

9-28  
\* CHANGED PER NY TEL. 9-28-50, 10:14 AM.

ENIL 43 IS THIS TEL.

JXO.

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WAS AWARE OF [REDACTED] LOCATION IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY. THE INFT  
RECALLED ON ONE OCCASION WHEN IN NELSON-S OFFICE, A SEAMAN BROUGHT A  
BATCH OF PAPERS TO NELSON FROM JAPAN. THEY WERE JAPANESE CP NEWS PAPERS.  
NELSON-S  
\* HE STATED THAT WHENEVER A PERSON ENTERED DENNIS- OFFICE, HE IMMEDIATELY  
HIS TELEPHONE IN HIS DESK DRAWER AS A SECURITY MEASURE.

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ACK AND HLD PLS

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ORIGINAL--DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-20-2005

19022 September 28, 1950

CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

RE: INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM  
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT ND-588

Dear Sir:

Reylet 9/25/50.

The captioned informant is being interviewed by agents of the New York Office, being discreetly brought to the office for the interview, and, has furnished the following information:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

With regard to the informant's expulsion from the Party, he advised that on January 11, 1950 he was called in by the Secretariat, consisting of BILL NORMAN and [redacted] at 35 East 12th Street, New York City, at which time JACK KLING was also present. The idea expressed by these individuals was that the Ninth Floor, on the basis of the Party's operations for illegality in New York State, would like to have his services to make a check in the Midwest with the person in charge of this work. The Secretariat agreed that he should go and KLING told him he would meet him on Saturday at one o'clock at Union Station in Cleveland, Ohio. He left that Friday night and arrived at Cleveland on Saturday morning, January 14, 1950, and registered at the Cleveland Hotel, waiting there until one o'clock. At one o'clock KLING met him at Union Station and since they were supposed to meet an individual at six o'clock they decided to spend the afternoon together, attending a movie and walking. At six o'clock they were somewhere on Superior Avenue and 105th Street, where they were picked up by a car which was to take them to their destination. KLING indicated he would only introduce the informant and then leave. After riding around awhile, during which KLING made one telephone call, they arrived at their destination at an unknown address, thought by the informant to be in the Kingsbury Run area.

When they arrived at the house it was dark out and KLING told him to go down to the basement with the driver of the car, but KLING stayed upstairs. In the basement, according to the informant, which was partitioned off with blankets and had the water running in the sink, [redacted] told him to undress. The informant noted there were a half dozen rubber hoses there and on the table there were some knives. One of the men was carrying

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pistol. The driver and the two unidentified individuals told him to sit down and wait and when he asked what was going on they told him that he would soon find out. Informant indicated to them he was a sick person and had just gotten out of bed.

By that time KLING came down and started to swear at the informant and in the meantime JOE BRANDT, at that time in Cleveland, and [redacted] of Detroit, arrived and they also swore at him. The men brought with them a tape recording machine and a lie detector. The lie detector was set up and attached to the informant's arm and questions were put to him. The first point they brought out was about his personal history and then how long he knew NOEL and HERMAN FIELD. The informant told them that he did not know them and they said he was lying according to the lie detector, but the informant still insisted that the FIELDS were unknown to him, except what he read in the newspapers about them being arrested and apparently having disappeared in Hungary. The information concerning the FIELDS was asked of the informant numerous times and each time he stated he emphatically denied knowing them.

JOE BRANDT, according to the informant, then pulled out a blue-covered book concerning the RAJK trial and said very excitedly that he, the informant, must have learned the lessons of this trial and wanted to know how the informant sent his reports to the CIA. The informant told him he had no connection with the CIA and did not know anything about that organization. Additional questions were about the illegal structure in New York State and the questioning lasted for about 3½ hours. At that time a conference took place between the three men, after which KLING asked him if anyone knew he was in Cleveland. Informant told them his wife knew he was there and his mother knew it, and she expected him the next day in Youngstown, Ohio. The informant advised that by this time he had an idea what he was up against and told them he had left KLING'S name at the hotel, which he really had not done. It was the informant's opinion that they were ready to kill him that night but because they thought he had left KLING'S name at the Cleveland Hotel they were afraid to do so. He stated he was not touched or hurt in any way during the questioning. //

Finally, the informant advised, after pleading with them, they forced him to write a statement in ink that he had a fair hearing without intimidation and that he was accused of being an enemy agent in the Party. They informed him they were to have another session the next morning at eleven o'clock at a restaurant, believed to be the Mayfair, and they took him out of the house to the car, leaving him on an unknown corner. The next day he appeared at the restaurant, but none of the individuals showed up. He then proceeded to visit his mother and sister in Youngstown, took the Monday train back to New York City and then on that day saw in the "Daily Worker" he had been expelled from the Communist Party.

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The informant believed that the following incidents which occurred indicated to him that the Party thought he might be an agent of the CIA:

A. [ ] in charge of the ~~Democratic Council~~ in the Yugoslav movement, went back to Hungary in the early part of 1948 and procured a very responsible position there. Dr. SIMON was made a legal representative of the Budapest Hungarian Commercial Bank but in the middle of 1949, he was arrested. According to the informant, Dr. SIMON was charged with being a British agent and everyone knew that Dr. SIMON was a close friend of the informant. This friendship was based on the fact that Dr. SIMON was connected with the Unitarian Relief Bureau at the same time the informant was connected with Hungarian relief, and they met on different occasions. Dr. SIMON was a spokesman for the Unitarian Relief, the same organization NOEL FIELD was associated with in Paris, and it was thought this connection might have been noted by the Party.

B. In the RAJK trial there was a state witness by the name of [ ] who stated at the trial that he was introduced to Yugoslav agents in Bari, Italy. The name of the person who introduced him was not given. This witness was in Bari in 1943, 1944, and the early part of 1945, during which period the U. S. Army had a monitoring setup there. The informant was in the U. S. Army in Military Intelligence, also stationed in Bari during the above period. The informant recalled there was an order to give the utmost cooperation to the Yugoslavs there who had the job of establishing a Yugoslav department. The informant declared the U. S. Army hired competent people from a refugee camp in Bari, who monitored all the stations at that time. The witness and the informant had daily contact and also associated socially. [ ] pointed out in the trial that the informant introduced him to some of these Yugoslav agents, and in his military association as an American, there was no doubt that the informant had introduced him to some Yugoslavs.

C. Sometime last year there was a birthday party in a restaurant on Chester Street for HENRY WINSTON, at which party [ ] came to the informant and said that he knew someone who went to the same Army Intelligence school the informant attended. [ ] did not give this individual's name but the informant could tell from the conversation that [ ] knew he went to Army Intelligence school.

D. There was a party for ALEXANDER BITTELMAN around New Years on the Ninth Floor of 35 East 12th Street, New York City, during the course of which the informant mentioned to GEORGE MORRIS that they used to live together at one time. MORRIS stated he regretted that fact ever since and the informant thought he was joking.

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E. The informant sensed a certain reserved behavior on the part of many people, one of whom was [redacted]. In addition, he was kept out of the office prior to New Years for a period of eight weeks, after which he took sick and returned to work on January 7th or 8th.

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F. At the Labor Bazaar in the Fall of 1949, LOUIS WEINSTOCK came to the informant and asked him if he wanted to go to Hungary and if so to get a passport immediately. The informant indicated he would like to go and was told that it would be taken up with the Secretariat. Three days later he applied for a passport and before it could be processed all passports were invalidated by the State Department for travel in Hungary. It was the informant's opinion that he would never come back from Hungary, based upon his subsequent experience and expulsion from the Party.

With regard to the case of [redacted] which had been presented to him as a member of the New York State Review Commission of the Communist Party, he recalled that a report was made that [redacted] was seen in the summer of 1949 in Provincetown, Massachusetts in the company of Lesbians. This report came through the West Side region and stated they would try to induce her to leave the Party, but the informant did not think this was any basis for expulsions. [redacted] was questioned very intimately by the informant about her way of life and her profession and did not admit the charges brought against her. She was told that the committee would investigate her story, but before it could be completed she appeared on the witness stand at the trial of the Communist Party leaders.

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Another incident three days before she appeared on the stand was that [redacted] told the informant that [redacted] approached this individual's sister to collect names and addresses and it was later found out that she was trying to get people to give the names and address of new members. It is to be noted that [redacted] is the [redacted] of the Communist Party, USA Headquarters at 35 East 12th Street, New York City.

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The informant recalled that on the day [redacted] was put on the stand everybody who had anything to do with her was called in that night in the defense lawyer's office in order to see what they knew about her and their relationship with her.

The informant concluded from all facts assembled by him that his expulsion came from the USSR, based on the circumstantial evidence which he set forth above. This opinion was arrived at because no action had ever been taken by the Communist Party, USA leaders against him and apparently

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none would be only for the fact they were ordered to do so by the Soviet Union. This was merely the opinion of the informant and he had no basis in fact for it.

UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE,  
COMMUNIST PARTY, NEW YORK STATE

In the late summer of 1948, at the time of the indictments of the Communist Party leaders, ROBERT THOMPSON, New York State Chairman, Communist Party, reviewed with the informant the security apparatus which the Party had up to that date, especially telephone contacts and how to get in touch with people without direct contact. Informant explained each functionary in the Party in a given situation can be contacted indirectly by the section or regional organizer. It was thought by THOMPSON and the informant that it was a very cumbersome structure, based on the existing organization which had been set up by [redacted]. After discussion and evaluation of this structure the informant stated that THOMPSON came to the conclusion that the Party in New York State would have to do something new, directed from one level to another level, and due to the existing conditions, that is, the possibility of the Party being driven underground, a meeting was suggested by THOMPSON. At this meeting it was expected that the purpose for the illegal structure was to be discussed and this was to retain the structure or body of the Communist Party as an entity under any conditions, so that the Party will never disintegrate. At this point the informant interpolated that although the discussion of an illegal organization had not reached the stage of action to take in the event of a war between the United States and the U.S.S.R., there was no doubt in his mind that the Communist Party would sabotage the war effort by leaflets designed to interfere with industry.

The first meeting was held in the early fall of 1948 at the informant's home, and at this meeting there were [redacted] BOB THOMPSON, BILL NORMAN and the informant. At this meeting THOMPSON was the idea giver and the one who initiated the program to establish a Party underground. The informant recalled that THOMPSON mentioned that FOSTER had come back from Europe after a tour through the new democracies and that he had very valuable information concerning the history of the underground movement of Europe and all the problems that they were confronted with in Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

According to the informant, THOMPSON spoke about the basic organization of the illegal party as "three". At this point the informant furnished diagrams reflecting what was meant by the basis for the structure as "three". He explained that it started from the three individuals in New York State, who are [redacted] for the trade movement, BOB THOMPSON, for political work, and BILL NORMAN, for the organizational work. From these three New York



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State would be divided into three areas, consisting of the first area, New York County, Cultural Division and some of the semi-illegal apparatus already built; the second area consisting of Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, Westchester County and Nassau; and the third area the upstate area, taking in from all Albany to Buffalo. The informant stated that THOMPSON, [redacted] and NORMAN each were to name three immediate subordinates, with the result that one of these would know the other two and the three people he appointed. In all, he would know five individuals, which was the extent to which one Party member knew about the others as being Party members. This principle worked all the way down through the county, regional, section, sub-section and units, as indicated on the diagrams, photostatic copies of which are transmitted herewith to the Bureau as enclosures.

As a result of this breakdown, the total groups in the state would amount to 1,093 and total number of members in the New York State illegal Party would be 3,279.

Informant went on to explain that in the New York area there were too many people who were not taken care of in this setup who were considered important, with the result that committees branching out from the state "triangle" were to be set up, which would take care of finances, printing, distribution, paper, drop places, places to stay, communications, meeting places and the like. Assignments for these responsible positions rested within the state and for each task one person was to be assigned by the state, who was to contact the state through a liaison agent. In addition, other individuals were to be taken care of by horizontal committees from the top three level, which was to take in teachers, Civil Service and other individuals connected with similar organizations. The informant indicated that the conditions for this entire setup would dictate how close the outline could be followed.

*Members*  
The informant stated that additional meetings were held at the home of [redacted], the exact address not being known at this time, and the apartment of [redacted] who lived around [redacted] Bronx, New York. The meetings, according to the informant, were usually held after eleven o'clock in the evening. A meeting was also held at the home of [redacted] who resided on [redacted] and whose business is on [redacted] New York City. [redacted]  
[redacted]. At this meeting was BILL NORMAN, [redacted] and BEN DAVIS of Brooklyn. Another meeting was held at the home of [redacted] who resided on [redacted] New York City. The informant stated [redacted] is connected with the [redacted]

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partnership of Schuman and Marky, is a wealthy cloak manufacturer, is not a member of the Party, but permitted the meeting to be held as a favor to the informant. At this meeting was NORMAN [redacted] and [redacted].

At these meetings discussions were entered into and the questions raised as to how to circularize the concept of the illegal structure and how far they could go in making the ideological preparation for such circularization. A meeting was called late in 1948 or early 1949 at 77 Fifth Avenue to make the plan known to the county leaders. The chairman of this meeting was BILL NORMAN and was attended by ISIDORE BEGUN and possibly [redacted] of the Bronx, JIM FORMEY, New York County, [redacted] Westchester County, [redacted] of Albany, JOHN NOTO or [redacted] of Buffalo, BEN DAVIS or [redacted] of Brooklyn, [redacted] of the Cultural Division, Communist Party, [redacted] of Queens, [redacted] and the informant. The report of the structure was made by the informant, not many questions were asked and the structure accepted. The county leaders were alerted and after that the organization began. At first it was agreed that they would go down to the fourth level and stop there, which procedure took about 2½ months, at which time the informant met with NORMAN and they decided to have a test of the system. In the meantime the trial of the Communist Party leaders was already in progress and [redacted] assisted the informant in working out the following test in Brooklyn for the four levels. Blank letters were prepared in three different colors to be used for each different channel, that is, political, organization or trade union. The particular colors were not recalled by the informant. The letters were sent out and the informant stated the test did not work because all letters were supposed to be sent back to a central address to [redacted] who said he was dissatisfied with the experiment. [redacted] told the informant there was much room for improvement in the setup. Before the informant left the Party the first four levels were thoroughly checked in Brooklyn, after which Brooklyn was left to proceed to build the additional three levels. It was in the process of building when the informant left the Party.

The informant advised he was sent upstate during the fall of 1949 to check on the upstate area and found that there were about 35 groups in the Albany area, 35 groups in the Buffalo-Rochester area, and 16 groups in the Erie area already organized. He stated there were between 80 or 90 groups in the whole upstate area.

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The informant explained that the principle of the entire structure is that it works only down, in that a person on the second level can never contact under any circumstances a person on the upper level. This was done so that if anything happened on one level damage could be done only downward, never upward.

Concerning individuals who would be connected with the various areas, the informant was of the belief that [redacted] JIM TORMEY or [redacted] would head the New York area, BEN DAVIS would be one of the individuals in the Brooklyn area and JOHN NOTO and [redacted] would be connected with the upstate area. [redacted] would be connected with Queens County and [redacted] would be in Brooklyn. The only individual the informant thought of for the New York State third level was HAL KLEIN of Albany.

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The informant was of the belief that the following individuals would make up one or more alternate National Committees, consisting of three to five persons on each committee, in the event the Party went underground:

WILLIAM SCHNEIDERMAN  
ALEXANDER BITTELMAN  
BETTE GANNETT  
JOE BRANDT  
PETTIS PERRY

[redacted]  
ROB HALL  
JOSEPH STAROBIN  
GEORGE MORRIS  
ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG  
LOUIS WEINSTOCK

[redacted]  
AL LANNON

*3 P. members;  
Possible 2nd level of alternate  
C.P. National Committee  
for C.P. underground*

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The informant reiterated that he does not definitely know of any alternate National Committee or Committees being set up by the Party, but mentioned the above individuals whom he considered to be worthy of such a position.

On an alternate Administrative Committee set up by the Party, as in the alternate National Committee, the comrades were to be picked on the basis of their loyalty, devotion, resourcefulness and ingenuity, and the person

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in the Party who makes the selection for any committee is ultimately responsible for the selection. The following individuals were believed by the informant to be worthy of being considered on the alternate Administrative Committee:

[REDACTED]

BEN DAVIS of Brooklyn

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the "Ukrainian Daily News"

SAMUEL MILGROM

JOHN STEUBEN

C. P.

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In addition, the informant believed that individuals would be brought from the Midwest and the West Coast in the event the Party becomes illegal, and individuals on the East Coast would go West, in order that they could take up Party duties without having been identified with the Party movement in the locality in which they are to work.

With regard to the horizontal state, area and county levels, and the committees connected thereto, the informant was of the opinion that the following individuals would have important positions:

[REDACTED]

SIMON GERSON

[REDACTED]

WILLIAM WEINSTONE

[REDACTED]

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SECURITY

The question was raised, informant advised, as to where to put this illegal organization, whether to put it in an existing organization as it is or into a trade union. The conclusion was reached that it should be put into the trade movement and other mass organizations over which the Party had no control, and organizations which were not on the Attorney General's list. The American Labor Party or the Progressive Party were not considered, informant stated, since anyone of the Party members can belong to those organizations for political purposes only. The rest of the individuals who were not included in the basic structure of the illegal Party could remain active in trade unions and fronts, shifting for themselves, and would be contacted sparingly for financial reasons and other like purposes.

At the time the informant left the Party there was some deliberation on the question of integration of Negro Party members, but this problem had not been solved, since no decision was made concerning it.

The personal security of the individuals was discussed in connection with the illegal organization, and those individuals who are known as former Communists were to establish a double identity. He advised that the standard operating procedure at Communist Party National Headquarters was that all members of the Secretariat were not to be in one place at one time. Functionaries on a state, national and county level who were working in Party Headquarters would alternate being in the building. In other words, the informant stated, two people would know the same job and both of them would not be in the building at the same time. They would remain out of the building for two or three weeks at a time, during which period they would be cut off from all contacts and were supposed to establish a place they could stay at and not be located in the event of any pickup.

In addition, those individuals who were to remove themselves from the Party and Party activities were to get rid of personal identification, even to the extent of having their characteristic movements, behaviors and habits changed, and to set up themselves in a community where they would be known only by their new identity. In this way they could establish themselves as a respectable and law-abiding citizen, with an entirely new identity, and not be connected with the Party at all.

Informant declared that when the Party becomes illegal it cannot have the "Daily Worker" and therefore the voice of the Party must be heard through printed material. Provisions were set up to set aside printing facilities, and an agreement was that the Party should have at least three complete units of printing apparatus on a state level. One printing unit

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the informant knew of was in the establishment of [redacted] who resided at [redacted] Bronx, New York, and whose business was on [redacted] [redacted] the number and trade name of which were unknown to the informant. Informant stated this unit is owned by the Party, although it is allegedly owned by [redacted] One other unit was to be located in the Bronx and one in Brooklyn, the locations of which were unknown to the informant at the present time.

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M. K.  
The state organization considered for its printing the multilith process, which included the whole process of developing plates. These machines that the state was to own were only to be used when all other possibilities are exhausted and then only to be used for pamphlets, not leaflets. On a county level, if the county was large enough, like New York County, they could have the above-referred to printing apparatus; if not, high-speed mimeograph machines were acceptable. Since mimeograph machines were so large and cumbersome in a New York apartment, the informant advised that new machines were made up by a Chicago firm, which could be dismantled and put together again in 15 minutes. When dismantled this machine could be used as a tray, a frame or for other uses. Over 500 of these machines were made and disbursed throughout the country. A test was made of them in 1949, when a stencil was made on one half a sheet by MARION BACHRACH, and the other half of the sheet was left open for insertions by the local Party. This stencil was mailed out to the individuals who had these machines in the various districts and the leaflets prepared. The question of the advisability of distributing these leaflets in bulk was considered and this sensitized stencil was considered to be the answer to the problem. With this stencil a script or leaflet could be reproduced and distributed on the lower levels, using the one stencil.

The informant stated that [redacted] previously referred to, [redacted] [redacted] on printing machines, as was a mechanic whose name was not known to the informant, [redacted] for the International Workers Order. This individual was described as being about [redacted] [redacted] and lives in Brooklyn.

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A third mechanic known to the informant was an individual by the name of JACK, last name unknown, who works for Rotocraft, located at 12th Street and Broadway, New York City. This individual came from Philadelphia in 1931 and lives in Queens, Long Island. He is about 45 years of age, 5' 5½", 130 pounds, fair complexion and brown eyes.

With regard to Rotocraft, which is located on the third floor of the 12th Street and Broadway building, informant stated it was a business owned by the Communist Party and also does work for the United Electrical,

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Radio and Machine Workers of America. This business, the informant stated, was set up by BERNARD CHESTER (X SCHUSTER) in the 1930's and has been doing a lot of the printing of the Communist Party literature since then. CHESTER is the head of this company for the New York State Communist Party.

Another place where the Party can have printing done is the Bar Press, 54 Lafayette Street, New York, which company [redacted] of the Communist Party, District #2.

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The informant contended that AL ROSS of the "Long Island Press" would be influential in finding places to do printing of Communist Party literature, being an old Communist Party member, living in Long Island and working for the newspaper. The informant stated that ROSS discussed the problems of printing with him and suggestions given by ROSS were taken by the Communist Party. Another problem that presented itself was the securing of paper for the leaflets and pamphlets, and since paper cannot be stored in one place for a long period of time a survey was made of possible paper salesmen who had contact with various factories. Consideration was given to not purchasing paper from one firm, since the paper could be easily traced, but to approach a number of reliable establishments that dealt in paper, and have them increase their stock so that when paper is needed the Party can go to these various sources to get the excess which has been really bought for them. The informant declared that the reason for contacting a number of companies was for the purpose of using this paper from different companies so that when leaflets were made up all the various papers could be used and could not be traced to one particular factory.

The names of these companies, factories or paper salesmen were not known to the informant at the time he left the Party.

According to the informant, a number of drop places were designated by the Secretariat and he knew that [redacted] has a number of drugstores and small business places for drop purposes. The names of these drops were not known to the informant, since they did not go any further than [redacted] himself. The purpose of the drops was to establish a communications system to receive and send all necessary communications without using the mail, telephone or telegraph.

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The informant expressed the opinion that [redacted] of CHARLES KRUMBEIN, deceased National Treasurer, and possibly [redacted] would pick up from mail drops for the Party. He believed that an individual by the name of [redacted] works for the Jefferson Bookshop, and whose last name was unknown, was handling all letters from out of the New York State Office for upstate Buffalo.

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When she made her telephone calls she would go to Ohrbach's Department Store and Ben's Luncheonette. The informant was of the opinion that BETTY GANNETT and JACK KLING took care of the receiving of the information from these mail drops.

The informant stated he received instructions from ANDREW REMES that New York State Communist Party should secure three shortwave radio transmitting-receiving sets, to store them away and in the meantime to train some individuals to operate them. A survey was to be made of all those people in the Party who had amateur or "ham" licenses, in order that they could be secured for operating the sets. After this discussion with REMES informant declared he purchased one of the machines from [redacted] who was previously mentioned, which he turned over to [redacted] set up this machine in his home and after he had learned how to operate it he was to hide it someplace and train other people. The problem was to get these operators to work the machines in order that a chain of radios could reach all the way to the West Coast.

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Another consideration was the purchasing or construction of a mobile unit which could be effective to Albany, and from there on he carried out along the shortwave line. In addition, thought was even given to the establishing of a shortwave transmitter on a boat, but this was dropped due to the inconvenience it involved.

The only individuals the informant could think of who were radio "hams" were an organizer in the UE, whose name was unknown to him, [redacted] and the other individual worked at the Pierce Radio Store, 13 Astor Place, New York City. The informant did not know whether these individuals were contacted.

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The informant incidentally advised that complete libraries of books the Communist Party considers to be classics were set up by [redacted] in various places, which were not known to him.

The location of files of the Party were known to [redacted] according to the informant, even if he did not keep them at his own house. He thought that [redacted] might also know the location of files, or even keep them at her own house.

The informant declared that [redacted] keeps running records of the Party at a small store at [redacted] New York City, and also in the apartment of a woman who lives on the third or fourth floor of an apartment building located next to the Rose Garden Apartments on [redacted]. This woman, whose name was not recalled by the informant, [redacted] about ten years ago.

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The informant expressed the opinion that friendly neighbors of ~~LEN HARRIS~~, who resides at Croton-on-Hudson, might keep some Party records in the event the Party is declared illegal.

With regard to the handling of security in the New York area, the informant advised that [ ] is in complete charge of this on a national basis. ~~REN DAVIS~~ is in charge in Brooklyn, [ ] in Queens and [ ] in New York County. The informant stated they are not specifically trained for the position, having been given the job because of their trustworthiness and they have no system for maintaining the security of the Party. The informant declared that headquarters which are located in public buildings in the various counties do not have any security measures once the office is closed for the weekend or for the night. He declared the Party members in the buildings in question make it a point to attempt to win the sympathy of the superintendent and the building staff in order that they might be advised of any unlawful entry to their offices.

As an example of security measures entered into by the Party, the informant advised that he was in charge of setting up the security for meetings which were held at Madison Square Garden, New York City. For security reasons, according to the informant, the platform was put in the middle of the Garden and ten trusted people were located in the second row on each side of the platform, with one individual in charge of each ten. No crowd shots would be permitted by photographers and only at collection times would anyone be permitted to go to the platform. Bodyguards of the leaders would remain in the first two rows and three to six individuals would be located on each side of the end arena, the side arena, and end, side mezzanine and balcony. The reason for these people, the informant stated, was that they would be able to spot renegades from the Party who would be handing out leaflets or would attempt to create a disturbance.

The informant stated the Party security never bothered about the attendance of the New York City Police Department or the FBI since they considered it useless to determine who they were as long as no trouble was started.

Two to four people were located in the finance office at the Garden and six or more people were designated as a roving crew outside the Garden to spot renegade groups. These individuals were told not to start any trouble but would attempt to discourage people from accepting leaflets, particularly checking on any Party members who accepted such leaflets. He stated that the same people were never used and they were secured by sending word to the county, telling them that they needed so many people for a Garden meeting. He advised that the only close scrutiny given to those attending the Garden was those seated in a box which Madison Square Garden always kept for each affair that took place in the Garden.

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Where there was a meeting in an auditorium with a stage in front, no particular security measure was taken, since the whole front of the auditorium usually consisted of Communist Party members.

#### FINANCES

When the question of finances was brought up in the illegal organization of the Party, it was concluded that finances should be handled from the unit basis on a horizontal line into the unit. The informant explained that in the unit the individuals only knew two individuals below them and when a collection or a fund raising had to take place contact would be made with the unit and money would be collected from the individual Party members.

The informant declared that while the discussions were going on concerning the illegal organization, BILL NORMAN asked the informant and other individuals to recommend persons who could keep money for the Party. NORMAN told the informant that about \$20,000 would be given to each person and after a certain length of time NORMAN had about sixty names. A deliberation was entered into, and according to the informant it was agreed that money should be entrusted to professional and businessmen. Informant stated that there was about \$200,000 to be placed with these individuals and there were twenty to thirty people who would have this money for safekeeping. The informant could not recall the names of the individuals selected but knew that THOMPSON, NORMAN, WILLIAM WEINER and [redacted] who was made National Treasurer, would know the individuals who had the money.

The informant explained that some businesses were owned by the Party for the purpose of making a profit to be turned over to the Party. He recalled that the Gensup Stationery Company, 41 East 14th Street, with a branch office at 8 West 17th Street, was owned by the Communist Party in the name of [redacted]. The informant considered this organization as an agency for the Party and all profit made returns to the New York State Communist Party. The reason the informant knew this was that when he was in West Virginia in 1936 on various occasions he asked [redacted] New York State Communist Party [redacted] to furnish him with supplies and [redacted] gave him an order slip which he took to Gensup and supplies were sent to him at West Virginia. No money was paid by the informant for these supplies.

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The informant incidentally advised that an old German-type press is located in the stockroom on the third floor of the building in which the Gensup company is located, having been placed there by the New York State Communist Party.

Another fund-raising business of the Party, according to the informant, was run by BERNARD CHESTER, former Treasurer of the New York State Communist Party, located on the sixth floor of 1 Union Square. This is allegedly an export-import business, in the course of which CHESTER buys surplus goods for sale. The informant recalled that CHESTER made a trip to Cuba in 1949, allegedly for business purposes. It was the informant's belief this business was a cover, since CHESTER still handles finances for New York State, doing this even while [redacted] was the [redacted]. In addition, CHESTER also checks on purchases and finances of the "Daily Worker" and the "Morning Freiheit".

The informant advised that individuals who are wealthy and who contribute to the Party are handled by [redacted] and also by [redacted]. The informant knew that [redacted] handled the professional people who contributed to the Party as of 1940. One individual who contributes heavily to the Party, and known to the informant, [redacted] who lives in New York City and who was former [redacted] of the Pittsburgh District in 1937. Another individual was [redacted] a wealthy individual who now owns a house in the [redacted] of New York City. According to the informant, [redacted] in 1948 was put on "ice" in order to keep him away from Communist Party activity, and he is only contacted by one or two people.

[redacted] told the informant in 1948 or early 1949 that the Communist Party was trying to buy a private building which they could convert into a library for the use of Communist Party members in the event the Party became illegal. The informant is not sure but believes the Party bought this house on [redacted] in New York City.

Another incident that the informant thought had some connection with the finances of the Party was at the time [redacted] was arrested [redacted] who works for the [redacted]. [redacted] told the informant about two or three days after [redacted] arrest to get in touch with [redacted] and tell him to have [redacted] take care of some kind of a package in [redacted] house. According

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to the informant, [redacted]  
The informant saw [redacted] the next day and was told that the matter was taken care of. [redacted] did not know what was in the package or where it was ultimately placed.

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In a general statement the informant declared that all state money was funneled into the hands of [redacted] and BERNIE CHESTER, the latter being the only one who deals with the Amalgamated Bank. Outside large, individual contributions are sent directly to BILL NORMAN or [redacted]. Fund collections from rallies are sent to BERNIE CHESTER and national funds are handled by WILL WEINER, JACK KLING and BETTY GANNETT.

One of these large individual contributions recalled by the informant took place late in 1948 when an unknown individual from Maryland came to [redacted] be set up in a trust fund for the Party. Informant stated he knew that legal papers were drawn up by attorney ABRAHAM UNGER, which ultimately legalized this trust fund. This individual was described by the informant as being about 50 years of age, 6' 2", round face, blond hair, light blue eyes and, as he learned from [redacted] was a graduate of Harvard University.

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As far as the Party is concerned, New York and California are the only self-sufficient states, all others being subsidized. Informant stated that there never was enough money collected to support other districts, but there always seemed to be enough money available to take care of any financial situation. Where the money comes from or how the money gets to the Party districts was not known to the informant.

#### INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

The informant recalled that an employee of the Hungarian Consulate in New York City by the name of [redacted] was known to have been seeking knowledge of various Hungarian groups concerning their habits, localities, societies and the like. [redacted] was also interested in the same thing, and it was the informant's opinion that this information was being gathered for transmittal to Hungary.

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The informant stated that to the best of his recollection [redacted] of the "Ukrainian Daily News" received help from the USSR Consulate, New York City, in 1941 concerning the handling of the isolation of White Russians in the United States from other Russians, in order to negate the influence and activities of these individuals. This individual gave the impression

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to the informant that he carried on conversations with Soviet representatives in the United States.

The informant was of the opinion that [ ] who was deported to Hungary, might possibly be the American contact in that country, and that [ ] also known as [ ] would be a contact in the United States. However, he declared that these connections and contacts are all on an individual basis and are not known to him personally.

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He thought that contacts for the USSR have to be people who are competent and in industry and such people are not found in ordinary membership of the Party. He thought that a possible link between the USSR and the Communist Party, USA, was THEODORE BAYER of "Soviet Russia Today", since he had seen BAYER come into Party Headquarters approximately forty or fifty Saturdays for the purpose of getting large sums of money from the Communist Party Financial Office. The informant knew of no reason for these visits by BAYER, except that Soviet life and activities were well known to BAYER, due to his association with the Rusky Golos Association and "Soviet Russia Today".

The informant was of the opinion that an organization representative from the USSR could exist in the Party today, since the Communist Party, USA is considered a very important part of the Communist international movement and if it was really neglected it would not be able to function properly in the international Communist sphere.

Due to the fact that the Party leadership is weak, and needs criticism, and since its leadership existed under ~~BROWDER~~, it would be necessary to tighten the Party line, and therefore, according to the informant, someone must necessarily exist who would direct the Party policies. This individual, the informant stated, could be anybody from any Communist Party in the world, but the identity of such an individual would only be known to reliable Party leaders in the United States.

The informant explained that the guidance and leadership of the Party is found in the Cominform newspaper, "For a Lasting Peace and a Peoples Democracy", in which criticism of the Communist Party, USA, is reflected. As an indication of this, he stated that the slowness of the peace campaign was set forth in the paper, as well as the lack of security on the part of the Communist Party, USA. Prior to the establishment of the paper in 1945, the Party line, according to the informant, was secured by Party leaders, who went to Russia regularly in order to secure the line from the countries in Europe.

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When the Cominform was set up, the informant stated, the Communist Party, USA leaders did not know what it was and they first read of it in the "New York Times". A meeting of state, county and city functionaries was called a few days after the announcement and before the current issue of "For a Lasting Peace" was in their hands, and this was attended by 40 individuals. JACK STACHEL, National Education Director, after a conference with the Secretariat, had a perspective to give the comrades, to the effect that there were two camps in the world, one for war and one for peace. The Cominform, according to STACHEL, was formed by parties with mutual policies in Europe and that there would be no talk of affiliation with it. The informant declared that the Communist Party, USA never did join the Cominform, but followed its aims and objectives and limited itself to exchanging experiences.

The break by Yugoslavia from the Cominform was considered by the informant to be a serious and definite break from Russia, and was based on the lack of cooperation by Russia; the fact that TITO "coddled" anti-Soviet elements; the strength of nationalities in Yugoslavia; the liberation army trained by allies for TITO; and the purges which are taking place against Cominform supporters. The informant contended that because of all these things there was no possibility of the countries getting together again.

#### DOMESTIC

The informant expressed his opinion concerning the attitude the Communist Party, USA will take toward the McCarran Registration Act, to the effect that the Communist Party will not register under the bill, this decision having been taken some years ago. He thought that possibly some paid employees will register and then the Party will make a test case of the law, based on these registrations. He believed that union members working on the "Daily Worker" and the "Morning Freiheit" may refuse to work in the plant at headquarters, since they might be required to register as Communists.

Informant advised incidentally to the information set forth above that a Lieutenant ARTHUR MILLER of the New York City Police Department had been a member of the Communist Party for fifteen years and is assigned to the Prospect Park Station, Brooklyn. The informant knew this since MILLER paid his dues for the Party to the informant for a period of two years, the meetings taking place at the apartment of one [redacted] located on [redacted] New York City. MILLER also turned over to the informant dues he collected from three additional policemen and two wives of these policemen, the names of whom he did not know.

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MILLER, according to the informant, was "dormant", since he did not do anything in the Party, his assignment being to promote himself. MILLER, according to the informant, lived in the Ozone Park area of Brooklyn and was a leader of a Wall Street messenger strike a number of years ago. In the summer of 1948 MILLER was made a lieutenant on the New York City Police Department, having been fifth on the list. The informant last saw MILLER in December, 1949 at [redacted] apartment.

MILLER was described as being 40 years of age, 6', 175 pounds, dark complexion, dark eyes, sharp features and strong build.

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[redacted] is the wife of a lawyer, and who together with two other sisters, whose names are not known, are members of the Communist Party.

The informant did not know the names of any other individuals who might be members of the Party, and who are in the New York City Police Department, but heard rumors that there were a group of police in the 18th Congressional District, this district having VITO MARCANTONIO as its representative.

*C. P. Congressman*

Another incident the informant recalled was that in 1935 an individual, whose name he cannot recall, but who was connected with the Fingerprint Section of the FBI in Washington, D. C., came to him on two different occasions to pay dues for the Communist Party. This individual, the informant recalled, lived in Washington, D. C. with two or three other individuals of similar political ideas and on one occasion brought to the informant a strip photostat, containing only his fingerprints, which were taken by the Flint, Michigan Police Department, when he was arrested in that town. The informant stated this individual's girlfriend was in Section 18, Communist Party, and that he was a graduate of Columbia University.

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Informant declared that this individual was not [redacted] who was well known in the Party as having worked for the FBI in the Fingerprint Section.

A description of this individual, as given by the informant, reflected he had brown hair, deep-set blue eyes, round face, light complexion, 5' 7", 155 pounds, age 25 to 27 in 1935, large forehead and a big head, and was a slow, deliberate talker.

The informant has not seen this individual since 1935.

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CONFIDENTIAL

The informant indicated that the above information is not entirely complete or in detail as he would like to give it, and therefore as the interviews are continued with the informant supplemental information will be promptly furnished to the Bureau as he discloses it.

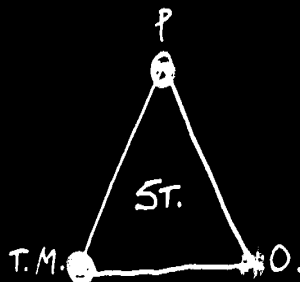
The information received from the informant concerning the individual as well as the general breakdown of the CP activity will be disseminated to the appropriate case files both for the Bureau and the New York Office. Information which may be of interest to other field offices will be forwarded to them under the appropriate captions.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*  
EDWARD SCHEIDT, SAC



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS



4.  
FINANCE  
PRINTING.  
DISTRIBUTION  
PAPER  
DROP PLACES  
PLACES TO STAY  
COMMUNICATION-TEL.-MAIL-RADIO.  
MEETING PLACES  
ETC.

1. ASSIGNMENTS AS TO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ABOVE TASKS REST WITHIN STATE - 3.
2. FOR EACH TASK ONE PERSON TO BE ASSIGNED BY STATE.
3. PERSON HAS CONTACT WITH STATE THROUGH LIASON.

Sept. 2, 1950

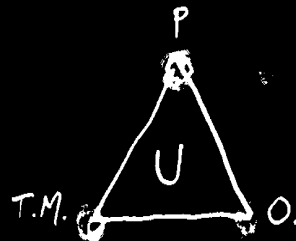
	Nº OF GROUPS	Nº OF MEMBERS.
STATE .....	1	3
AREA .....	3	9
COUNTY .....	9	27
REGION .....	27	81
SECTION .....	81	243
SUBSECTION? 243 .....		729
UNIT .....	729	2187

TOTAL GROUPS 1093  
 " MEMBERS 3279

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
 TAM/MLT/CLS

Sept. 22, 1950

J.E.



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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Sept. 22, 1950

P.L.

	N <sup>o</sup> OF GROUPS	N <sup>o</sup> OF MEMBERS.
STATE .....	1	3
AREA .....	3	9
COUNTY .....	9	27
REGION .....	17	81
SECTION .....	81	243
SUBSECTION? 243 .....		729
UNIT .....	729	2187

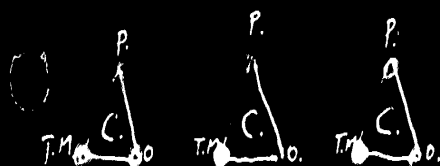
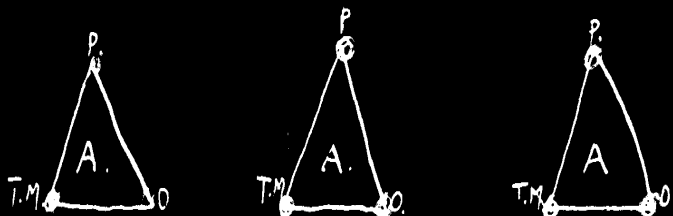
TOTAL GROUPS 1093

" MEMBERS 3279

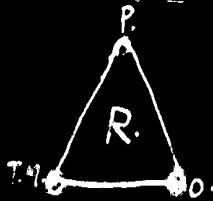
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Sept. 22, 1950

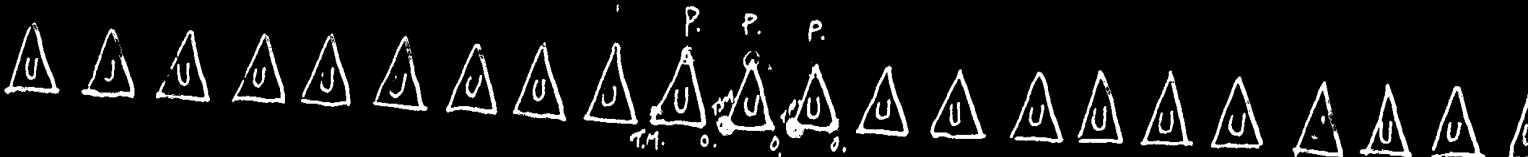
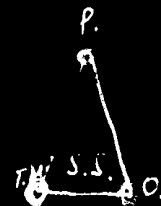
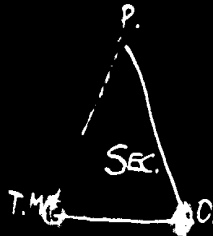
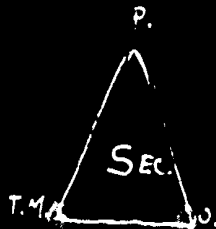
J.L.



Sept. 22, 1950 J.L.



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DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SAC, New York DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC tember 28, 1950  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Director, FBI

PERSONAL ATTENTION

CONFIDENTIAL NATIONAL DEFENSE INFORMANT 588

Reference is made to your teletype dated September 25, 1950 advising of the results of an interview with this informant on that date. You are instructed to give the most careful supervision to the handling of this informant and he should be encouraged to keep up all possible contacts with the Communist Party although it is realized that the informant left the Party under an unfavorable light. All possible information presently in the possession of the informant concerning the Communist Party, USA, its possible connection with the USSR, and individuals in the Communist Party should be developed.

After each interview of the informant, the New York Office should furnish the Bureau a summary of the pertinent information developed by letter under the caption of the informant. Information which should be brought to the immediate attention of the Bureau should be furnished the Bureau by teletype. In addition, the New York Office is instructed to prepare separate communications for the Bureau and interested offices under appropriate captions incorporating pertinent information concerning organizations and individuals mentioned by the informant. It will be the responsibility of the New York Office to see that all pertinent information furnished by the informant is channeled into the proper files. The information furnished by the informant to date should also be reviewed, broken down and placed in the appropriate files. As indicated above, interested field offices should receive pertinent information furnished by the informant.

The interviews with CNDI-588 should be most searching and thorough and the handling of this informant should be most carefully supervised.

RECORDED

100-16177-53

98 OCT 1 1950

SEP 28 1950

Leon \_\_\_\_\_  
dd \_\_\_\_\_  
egg \_\_\_\_\_  
Lavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JWP:edd

*Carbon copy  
in att  
2-20-50*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 28 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

WASHINGTON

434 A

DIRECTOR

U R G E N T

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*ABZ*  
*2-20-50*  
*Langley*  
*Tommy*  
*Rafferty*  
*Brinkley*

INFO FURNISHED BY NY CIND FIVE EIGHT EIGHT. INFO INTERVIEWED THIS DATE NYO. IN DISCUSSING PRESENT CP LEADERSHIP, INFO STATED THAT IN HIS OPINION EUGENE DENNIS AND JOHN WILLIAMSON ARE THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND ENJOY THE GREATEST AUTHORITY IN TOP LEADERSHIP CIRCLE. INFO STATED THAT WILLIAMSON AND DENNIS, IN HIS OPINION, ARE VERY FRIENDLY AND HAVE WORKED SOMEWHAT AS A TEAM IN THE PAST. THESE COMRADES HAVE RECEIVED POLITICAL ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS OF ALEXANDER BIDDLEMAN OF "MORNING FREIHEIT" WHO, IN INFORMANT-S OPINION, IS A RECOGNIZED POLITICAL ANALYST. INFO STATED THAT NEXT GROUP WOULD BE   ROBERT THOMPSON, AND GUS HALL WHO FORM A SECOND CLIQUE OR TEAM. THIS LATTER GROUP IS RECOGNIZED AS THE YOUNGER LEADERS OF THE PARTY. THIS SECOND GROUP HAS AUTHORITY, BEING CHECKED CLOSELY, HOWEVER, BY DENNIS AND WILLIAMSON. INFO STATED THAT OTHER LEADERS, SUCH AS GREEN, STACHUL, DAVIS, WINSTON, POTASH, WINTER, ARE ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO FOLLOW MAJORITY RULE RE PARTY POLICY WITH THE POLICY BEING SET BY DENNIS AND WILLIAMSON. IN DISCUSSING UNDERGROUND OPERATIONS OF CP, INFO STATED IN THE PAST J. PETERS WAS APPARENTLY THE LEADER OF THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH SUCH ACTIVITY BUT RECEIVED IMPRESSION

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-3-341

b6  
b7C

*John O. Lattimer*

END PAGE ONE

61 NOV 15 1950

100-16177  
NOT RECORDED  
137 OCT 18 1950

*My*  
*Price*



PAGE TWO

THAT PETERS WAS SO ENGAGED FROM BRIEF CONVERSATIONS HAD WITH HIM. INFO STATED IN HIS OPINION TOP LEADER CLOSEST TO J. PETERS PRIOR TO LATTER-S DEPORTATION FROM U. S. WAS JOHN WILLIAMSON. INFO STATED THAT WILLIAMSON NO DOUBT WAS AWARE OF ACTIVITIES OF J. PETERS. INFO STATED THAT THE TIME PETERS WAS PICKED UP BY U. S. GOVT., [REDACTED] b6 b7C [REDACTED] WAS IN DAILY CONTACT WITH WILLIAMSON AS OBSERVED BY INFO WHICH INDICATED THAT WILLIAMSON WAS EITHER WORKING WITH OR CARRYING ON FOR PETERS DURING HIS ARREST. INFO. STATED THAT IN HIS OPINION BERNARD CHESTER IS ENGAGED IN SOME TYPE OF UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY. INFO STATED THAT CHESTER ADMITTED TO HIM THAT HE WAS IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH JACOB GOLOS, FORMER RUSSIAN AGENT. INFO STATED THAT EVEN THOUGH CHESTER IS THE ACTUAL NY STATE CP TREASURER, HE MUST BE ENGAGED IN SOME UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY OPERATING OUT OF HIS SIXTH FLOOR OFFICE IN BUILDING AT ONE UNION SQUARE. INFO STATED THAT IN FORTY OR FORTY ONE CHESTER MENTIONED TO HIM THAT NYC P. D. CONFIDENTIAL SQUAD WAS ENDEAVORING TO HAVE POLICE WOMEN INFILTRATE RANKS OF CP AS UNDERCOVER OPERATORS BUT THAT CHESTER HAD TWO PARTY PEOPLE, WHO WERE APPARENTLY POLICE WOMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SQUAD, OBTAIN FOR CHESTER THE IDENTITY OF THE POLICE WOMEN DESIGNATED FOR THIS ACTIVITY AND AS A RESULT, THE PARTY WAS SUCCESSFUL IN DISCLOSING AND EXPELLING THESE

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

POLICE WOMAN FROM CP. INFO STATED THAT CHESTER MENTIONED THAT HE HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE CP IN CUBA AND ARRANGED FOR A TRIP TO CUBA FOR ISRAEL AMTER. INFO STATED THAT IN HIS OPINION [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OF REVIEW COMMISSION, HAS SERVED AS A PERSONAL COURIER FOR THE PARTY AND ALSO IS [REDACTED] SEAMEN MATTERS AND POSSIBLY

[REDACTED] SEAMEN COURIERS. INFO STATED THAT COMRADE DOROTHY LOEB WAS CONTACT FOR THE CP WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL TYPE PEOPLE SUCH AS CIVIL ~~KNOWLEDGE~~ SERVICE EMPLOYEES IN NY AREA AND THAT SHE WAS SUCCEEDED BY

[REDACTED] AND THAT THIS GROUP, INFO BELIEVES, IS NOW HANDLED BY A COMRADE, WHOSE NAME HE COULD NOT RECALL, WHO IS TALL, BLOND MAN. INFO WILL ENDEAVOR TO RECALL THIS INDIVIDUAL-S NAME. INFO

BELIEVES THAT ALSO ENGAGED IN UNDERGROUND OR SECRET-TYPE ACTIVITY IS *100-107137 info to be reported in main file* MARCEL SCHERER WHO IS HIGHLY REGARDED, TRUSTED, AND INFLUENTIAL COMRADE. INFO STATED THAT SCHERER HAS AN INTERNATIONAL BACKGROUND

HAVING BEEN TRAINED IN RUSSIAN AND FOR THIS REASON, PLUS THE RESPECT SHOWN TO SCHERER BY CP LEADERS HERE, INFO BELIEVES SCHERER MAY BE ENGAGED IN WORK OF AN ESPIONAGE TYPE. ALSO INFO BELIEVES THAT [REDACTED]

*100-344257 info in main file* [REDACTED] WHO WAS REPORTED TO BE PRESENTLY EMPLOYED IN U. E. OFFICE, NYC, AND WHO HAS ALSO BEEN RUSSIAN TRAINED, IS A HIGHLY REGARDED PERSON AND DUE TO HER INTERNATIONAL BACKGROUND AND HER CAPABILITIES, NO DOUBT IS ENGAGED IN SOME ESPIONAGE-TYPE ACTIVITY. INFO BELIEVES THAT

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

*NAME* *info to be on main file*  
[REDACTED] ALSO EMPLOYED AT U. E. OFFICE, NYC, HAS BEEN RUSSIAN  
TRAINED AND TYPE OF CAPABLE PARTY PERSON WHO WOULD BE UTILIZED BY  
PARTY FOR ESPIONAGE-TYPE ACTIVITY. INFO STATED THAT NEITHER [REDACTED] NOR  
[REDACTED] IS OPENLY ASSOCIATED WITH CP ACTIVITIES TODAY. INFO STATED IN  
REGARDS TO U. N. THAT ANY COMRADES WHO RECEIVED JOBS AT U. N. WERE  
INSTRUCTED TO GIVE UP ALL OPEN CP ACTIVITIES AND WOULD BECOME KNOWN  
AS CP MEMBERS AT LARGE AND THAT THE PERSON CONTACTING THE U. N. CP  
MEMBERS WHO ARE CONSIDERED A SPECIAL UNDERGROUND GROUP IS [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] CP STATE FUNCTIONARY, WHO COLLECTS DUES FROM THESE PEOPLE.  
INFO STATED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF A PERSON NAMED [REDACTED] /PHONETIC/,  
FIRST NAME UNKNOWN, WHO IS EMPLOYED AS A SPEED TYPIST AT U. N., WHO  
IS A PARTY MEMBER. INFO ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] INDICATED TO HIM THAT  
[REDACTED] WITH ANTI-CP GROUPS AT U. N. IN ORDER TO PICK UP INFO  
FOR PARTY. INFO BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE OTHER COMRADES WHO ASSIST  
[REDACTED] IN THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY. IN DISCUSSING FUNDS AND COVER COM-  
PANIES WHICH MAY BE USED FOR SECRET PARTY ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY, INFO  
ADVISED THAT WILLIAM WEINER, THE FINANCIAL HEAD OF CP, HAS AN EXPORT  
IMPORT BUSINESS WHICH OFFICE IS LOCATED IN AN OFFICE BUILDING IN  
VICINITY OF FORTIETH AND FORTY FIRST STS. ON MADISON AVE., EXACT NAME  
OR LOCATION NOT KNOWN TO INFO. INFO STATED THAT A FRIEND OF HIS, A  
COMRADE BY THE NAME OF DR. MOSES SIMON, WORKED IN THIS OFFICE FOR WEINER

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

AND WAS ON PAY ROLL OF THIS COMPANY FOR APPROX TWO OR THREE MONTHS DURING SUMMER OF FORTY EIGHT PRIOR TO SIMON'S DEPARTURE FOR HUNGARY. INFO STATED THAT WEINER ANTICIPATED SIMON ARRANGING FOR THIS COMPANY TO DO BUSINESS WITH VARIOUS HUNGARIAN COMPANIES. HOWEVER, SIMON HAS BEEN ARRESTED BY HUNGARIAN GOVT., CHARGED WITH BEING A BRITISH AGENT. INFO FURTHER ADVISED THAT WEINER OPERATES ANOTHER BUSINESS WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE AN EXPORT IMPORT BUSINESS IN DOWNTOWN AREA OF NYC, WHICH OFFICE IS MANAGED BY [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] INFO STATED THAT [REDACTED] IS ASSISTED IN OFFICE OPERATION BY [REDACTED] OF A DECEASED COMRADE. INFO STATED THAT IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT WEINER MAKES A FINANCIAL PROFIT FROM OPERATION OF THESE COMPANIES AND ALSO PROBABLY UTILIZES THESE COMPANIES FOR SECRET PARTY WORK OR ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY. INFO HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RECALL NAMES OF ANY COMRADES WHOM HE KNEW TO BE EMPLOYED BY FEDERAL GOVT. INFO. FURTHER ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] ADMITTED THAT WHILE HE SERVED AS THE [REDACTED] FOR VITO MARCANTONIO IN THE THIRTY FOUR ELECTIONS, [REDACTED] COLLECTED CP DUES FROM MARCANTONIO AT THAT TIME. INFO STATED THAT GEORGE BLAKE, NY COUNTY CP OFFICIAL, IS A PERSONAL FRIEND AND A PARTY CONTACT OF MARCANTONIO. INFO ADVISED THAT BERNARD CHESTER ADMITTED TO HIM THAT DURING THE FORTY EIGHT MARCANTONIO CAMPAIGN CHESTER PAID TO MARCANTONIO FIFTEEN

b6  
b7C

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

THOUSAND DOLLARS AS PART OF A PARTY CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS MARCANTONIO-S  
CAMPAIGN. INFO. ADVISED THAT SINCE HE HAS UNDERGONE A GREAT MENTAL  
STRAIN AND HE IS PHYSICALLY TIRED AS A RESULT OF SEVERAL DAYS OF INTER-  
VIEW, INFO REQUESTED TO BE EXCUSED FROM INTERVIEW FROM SEPT TWENTY  
EIGHT THROUGH OCT. SECOND NEXT. HE STATED DURING THIS TIME HE INTENDS  
TO TAKE A LITTLE REST AND ENGAGE IN SOME FORM OF RECREATION LIKE FISHING,  
BUT THAT HE WILL REMAIN IN THE CITY AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANY  
EMERGENCY. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO REINTERVIEW INFO ON OCT  
THIRD NEXT. LETTER WILL FOLLOW.

SCHEIDT

HLD FLS

ORIGINAL--DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
New York 7, New York

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

October 10 1950

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

*JOHN LAUTNER*

*CA 75-1121*  
*7/31/89 2754CWI/A*  
*DEC 14 1989*  
*on*  
*272,222*  
*4-7-88*  
*88BTD/10*

RE: INFORMATION FURNISHED BY CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMANT ND-588 re

GREGORY CASE - ESPIONAGE - R

(Bureau File 65-56402)

JAHAM CASE - ESPIONAGE - R

(Bureau File 74-1333)

*Baumgardner*  
*re Phoenix*  
*Joey*

Dear Sir:

The informant was interviewed to determine his knowledge of the activities involved in the above captioned cases. It should be noted that the informant did not have any real factual knowledge concerning the operations or the subjects involved in these cases. The informant stated that he received most of his knowledge of these cases from reading the "New York Times" and that the above captioned cases were never discussed among these Communist Party leaders at the Communist Party headquarters in New York City in his presence.

In regard to his knowledge of ELIZABETH BENTLEY and WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, the informant stated that the first time he became acquainted with these names was through stories published in the public press. Of the various persons mentioned in the BENTLEY and CHAMBERS statements, the only individuals that the informant had known at all were J. PETERS [redacted]

J. PETERS

In connection with J. PETERS, the informant advised that he had known PETERS since about 1929 and knew him only as a very active organizer in the open Communist Party. The informant continued that he became quite friendly with PETERS when he attended some classes at the Hungarian National Training School in New York City in 1930 when PETERS was then teaching a course in Political Economy. The informant recalled that PETERS was very active in the Hungarian Branch of the Communist Party, but thereafter became associated with District 2 of the Communist Party. The informant characterized PETERS as a brilliant organizer and an individual who knew

cc: Gregory Case (65-14603)  
Jaham Case (65-14920)

BLK:LEJ  
66-3901

RECORDED

OCT 11 1950

ASB

*100-16177-54*  
*(re Gregory Case)*

*100-184255-1*  
*552481-101*

b6  
b7C

Letter to Director  
NY 66-3901

a great deal about propaganda, particularly in the actual running of such organizations as the "Daily Worker" and other establishments that publish pamphlets, leaflets, etc. It was the informant's impression that PETERS was not thought of as one of the leaders of the movement by the leading functionaries of the Party. The informant stated that apparently PETERS was a much bigger man in the movement than those in the open Communist Party realized, possibly with the exception of a very few. The informant gained this impression, he stated, because after the stories related by BENTLEY and CHAMBERS, it became quite apparent that PETERS had a rather large hand in the underground activities of the Communist Party.

[redacted]  
In regard to [redacted] the informant stated that [redacted] had been quite active in the Party and was regularly assigned as a writer and book reviewer for the "Daily Worker" up until the time that [redacted] was brought before the Federal Grand Jury in connection with the CHAMBERS story. Subsequently, when [redacted] was identified by CHAMBERS as being [redacted] used by CHAMBERS in his apparatus in Washington, D. C., [redacted] the Party leaders no longer trusted [redacted] and as a matter of fact, he appeared most infrequently at the "Daily Worker" and only occasionally supplied that newspaper with a book review. The informant stated that during the time he knew [redacted] he had no knowledge that the latter was involved in any espionage or Communist underground work. 78

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
The informant related that he first met [redacted] when the latter was an official of the Office of War Information, and the informant was in the United States Army, assigned to a Psychological Warfare Group. The informant stated that [redacted] never informed him of the fact that he, [redacted] was a member of the Communist Party, but the informant recalled one instance in Algiers during the war when [redacted] introduced the informant to a high ranking member of the Hungarian Communist Party. The informant did not recall this Hungarian's name, but knew that this individual had fought with the Loyalists in Spain, and also knew him to be a rather high placed Communist. The informant stated that he got the impression from the above mentioned introduction and also from the fact that [redacted] never denied that he was a Communist, that [redacted] must have been a Communist, although not necessarily a card-carrying member.

b6  
b7C

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*  
EDWARD SCHEIDT, SAC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO: COMMUNICATION.

Transmit the following message to:

OCTOBER 10, 1950

SAC, NEW YORK

URGENT  
CODE UNDERLINED

RECORDED 100-16177-55

ONDI FIVE EIGHT EIGHT. REURTEL OCTOBER NINE. AUTHORITY GRANTED EFFECTIVE  
IMMEDIATELY BEGIN PAYMENTS INFORMANT FIFTY DOLLARS PER WEEK DURING CURRENT  
LENGTHY INTERVIEWS WITH HIM.

HOOVER

JDD:esb

cc: Mr. Gunsser, room 5505

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

100-16177-55

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TELETYPE

OCT 11 1950

RECEIVED READING ROOM  
FBI  
OCT 10 5 39 PM '50  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

SENT VIA

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
TRAINING SECTION

1243A

Per

24



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 9 1950

TELETYPE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC

WASHINGTON  
TAM/MLT/CLS

1038 P

DIRECTOR U R G E N T

CI ONDI FIVE EIGHT EIGHT. AT PRESENT INFT BEING INTERVIEWED FIVE HOURS  
DAILY, FOUR DAYS PER WEEK CONCERNING CP MATTERS. REQUEST PAYMENT  
BE MADE TO INFT IN AMOUNT FIFTY DOLLARS PER WEEK UNTIL LENGTH AND  
FREQUENCY OF INTERVIEWS ARE REDUCED. INFT HAS FURNISHED CONSIDERABLE  
INFO OF VALUE, DETAILS OF WHICH ARE BEING FORWARDED TO BUREAU BY LETTER.  
ND FIVE EIGHT EIGHT AGREED THIS DATE TO TESTIFY IN OPEN COURT IN  
REGARDS TO ANY INFO SUPPLIED BY HIM. SUTEL AUTHORITY.

SCHEIDT

HLD PLS

RECORDED - 33

OCT 12 1950

100-16177-55

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York 7, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS 1950  
ON 10-26-2005

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Director, FBI

RE: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NATIONAL DEFENSE  
INFORMANT 588

Dear Sir:

Rebulet September 28, 1950.

On October 3, 1950 the informant was interviewed. At that time he was offered a sum of \$50.00 by the New York Office to cover expenses incurred by him during the period September 20, 1950 to date in regard to his interviews by this office. It is to be noted that the informant had made no requests for payment at any time during the interviews with him.

When the offer of a \$50.00 payment was first made to the informant, he refused, stating that any information he had was at the disposal of the Bureau and that he had no intention of securing payment for this knowledge. The informant advised that he wanted to get his past association with the Communist Party cleared up so that he would be able to spend what years of his life that remained before him in attempting to atone to society (the United States Government) for the harm that he had done in the past through his connection with the Communist Party.

It was explained to the informant that the aforementioned sum of \$50.00 was not in payment for the information furnished by him. It was pointed out that this sum was to be considered as a payment to cover costs of personal expenses incurred during the series of interviews. At the termination of the interview, the informant agreed to accept the \$50.00 in the light that this sum was to cover expenses incurred by him.

It should be noted that the informant's present financial income is limited to the payments received from the New York State Unemployment Office, which amounts to \$26.00 a week. During the above interview the informant remarked that his only concern is in securing employment. He stated that since he worked for the Communist Party from 1929 to 1950, he has no references to use in securing private employment. The informant stated that after the interviews are completed, he wondered whether it would be possible

RECORDED - 5

OCT 12 1950

BLK:LEJ  
66-3901

COPIES DESTROYED

EX-16

OCT 25 1950

100-16177-56

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
- "Rosen" (with a large flourish)  
- "Glavin"  
- "Ladd"  
- "Nichols"  
- "Tracy"  
- "Egan"  
- "Gurnea"  
- "Harbo"  
- "Hendon"  
- "Jones"  
- "Mumford"  
- "Quinn"  
- "Nease"  
- "Gandy"

Letter to Director  
NY 66-3901

for the Bureau to render him any assistance in securing employment of any type, remarking that wages, hours, or working conditions were of no interest to him. According to the informant, he is qualified for employment as a journalist, a translator, or limited personnel work.

It is to be noted that no commitments were made to the informant on the part of the Bureau at any time during this interview. When the series of interviews are completed and the informant continues to be cooperative, the New York Office will request an opinion from the Bureau as to the desirability of assisting the informant in securing some type of employment.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward Scheidt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

EDWARD SCHEIDT, SAC

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York 7, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-26-2005

CONFIDENTIAL

October 13, 1950

Director, FBI

3042/ADT/CLK 10.5.87 #861840  
pgs. 1, 7, 8, 11, 12 only contain  
nothing classifiable  
Re: INFORMATION FURNISHED BY NEW YORK  
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT ND-588

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to New York teletype dated September 28, 1950.

Confidential Informant ND-588 was interviewed at the New York Office on September 27 and October 3, 1950, by SA DANIEL F. O'CONNOR regarding his knowledge of espionage activities. The informant for the most part had no specific first-hand information regarding espionage activities; however, information furnished by the informant is set out herein.

A. SOVIET INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

ND-588 had no information regarding activities of Soviet Intelligence Services in the United States. He had no specific information regarding the Communist Party apparatus or the extent the Communist Party is used by Soviet Intelligence. He had no information regarding any Communist Party connections with the Comintern apparatus. He had no information regarding Communist Party connection for espionage purposes with the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. or any of the satellite countries or consulates of the same.

He was not acquainted with and had no information concerning any party organizer connected with the Soviet Embassy who would be a channel for instructions to or from the Communist Party. The informant had no information regarding any cover companies connected with Soviet Intelligence.

He stated he had no information regarding any connection of the Amtorg Trading Corporation with the Communist Party in matters of espionage, or any information regarding the transfer of funds by the Amtorg Trading Corporation through the Party to espionage agents. He stated ISIDORE NEEDLEMAN, who until recently was connected with the Amtorg Trading Corporation as counsel, must have been "in on a lot of deals". This was a surmise on the part of the informant and he could not elucidate on the activity of NEEDLEMAN.

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He stated that NEEDLEMAN would have frequent contact with the Communist Party. The informant said that when NEEDLEMAN'S name came out in the [redacted] case as having been suspected to giving information to the United States Government, this was vigorously denied by NEEDLEMAN; however, a seed of suspicion was planted in the minds of Communist Party functionaries and this may have been the reason for NEEDLEMAN having severed his connection as counsel with the Amtorg Trading Corporation. The informant is definitely of the impression that NEEDLEMAN did have a fear that he might be prosecuted for violation of the Registration Act as a result of his employment by the Amtorg Trading Corporation. The informant advised further that all Communist Party members who worked for the Amtorg Trading Corporation in the early 1930's were cut off from the Party and became members-at-large.

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#### B. COMMUNIST PARTY UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES

##### 1. UN EMPLOYEES

The informant stated that Communist Party members who become employees of the UN are automatically made members-at-large.

##### 2. COVER COMPANIES

~~WELWEL~~ WARSZOWER, with alias ~~WILLIE~~ WEINER, who is the unannounced National Treasurer of the Communist Party, operates an export-import business on Madison Avenue between 40 and 41st Streets, according to the informant. It is the recollection of the informant that this business is located in a large office building on the East side of the avenue. He was not aware of the name of this company. He also stated that WARSZOWER operates another business in the downtown area of New York. He could furnish no specific information as to the name, location, or type of business of this downtown firm. The informant felt that these two operations of WARSZOWER were cover companies for the Party either as sources of funds for the Party or as espionage covers.

With regard to the Madison Avenue company, the informant stated that Dr. ~~MOSEY~~ SIMON was on the payroll for a few months before [redacted] went to Hungary. He stated that SIMON is now in jail in Hungary accused by the Hungarian Government of being a British agent.

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Another export-import business is operated by ~~BERNIE~~ CHESTER, with alias ~~BERNARD~~ SCHUSTER, on the sixth floor of a building located at 1 Union Square,

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New York City. CHESTER is the unannounced Treasurer of the New York State Communist Party. The informant feels that this may be a cover for one of the two purposes set out above in connection with the business organizations of WARZOVER.

It is noted that in both these instances, the operators of these businesses are unannounced treasurers of the National and New York State Communist Party. This may indicate that these are covers for financial purposes rather than espionage purposes.

3. EARL BROWDER

The informant stated that during the EARL BROWDER regime, the Party functionary who would act as liaison between the open party and the underground organization would be EARL BROWDER himself. Either ROY HUDSON or JACK STACHEL would also be acquainted with this activity inasmuch as they were the closest Party functionaries to BROWDER.

4. JOHN WILLIAMSON

Since the end of BROWDER'S regime until the present time, the Party functionary who would have acted as liaison with the underground organization, would be in the opinion of the informant, JOHN WILLIAMSON, and to some extent, JACK KLING. KLING is presently the Chairman of the Wisconsin Communist Party. The informant recalled that on one occasion WILLIAMSON asked him if he knew anybody who was travelling to South America. WILLIAMSON, according to the informant, was very close to J. PETERS. He stated that WILLIAMSON was undoubtedly aware of PETERS' activities and when PETERS was in trouble immediately prior to his departure from the United States, WILLIAMSON was very much concerned about him, PETERS. In this connection, during this period [redacted] was constantly with him which was an indication to the informant that WILLIAMSON was much concerned regarding PETERS' status.

5. [redacted]

The informant recalled that [redacted] became a District functionary in New York City in 1930. PETERS at that time was a District Organizer in New York City. [redacted] took [redacted] away from him and a terrific fight between [redacted] and PETERS ensued. Soon thereafter, [redacted] left New York and went to Detroit, Michigan, and became District Organizer. He was indicted for his activities in the "Ford Hunger March".

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The informant stated that [ ] "skipped" out of the Detroit area and immediately went "undercover". In 1935 or 1936, the prevailing gossip around Party headquarters was that [ ] was acting as the representative of the American Communist Party in Canada. According to the informant, [ ] kept away from the Communist Party headquarters building in New York City and took part in no open party Communist Party activities except to conduct small classes in the Westchester area. He also gave a lecture on China about 1941 to students of the Communist Party National Training School. The informant stated that [ ] was the cause for much concern in respect to his teaching of the Westchester classes. He stated that [ ] was all mixed up in his Communist Party political thinking and it was necessary to supplement his classes with other lecturers who would correct [ ] errors.

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The informant continued that [ ] in the Spring of 1949, told him that [ ] had become a Titoite and had left for Yugoslavia. When the informant heard this, he immediately contacted BETTY GANNETT at Communist Party headquarters. GANNETT dismissed the rumor abruptly and merely told the informant to "forget about it". On the basis of BETTY GANNETT'S reaction, it was the informant's suspicion that [ ] went to Yugoslavia as a Communist Party "plant". The informant stated that [ ] also went to Yugoslavia with him.

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#### 6. PASSPORT DEALINGS

The informant said he had no knowledge of any passport rings operated by or in connection with the Communist Party. He stated it was altogether possible that the Party functionaries could make contact with the consulates of various satellite countries to effect transportation out of the United States. By way of illustration, he cited the case of J. PETERS. He said that PETERS went to the Hungarian Consulate and got a passport as a Hungarian subject. The informant stated that, of course, any such arrangement would have to be made through EUGENE DENNIS or JOHN WILLIAMSON.

#### 7. DEPARTURES FROM THE UNITED STATES

The informant said that he saw GERHART EISLER in the Communist Party Headquarters building shortly before he departed the United States. He said he did not know who EISLER contacted at this time. It was the informant's belief that the EISLER departure was effected on the "waterfront", but he had no specific information in this regard.

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The informant said he had no information regarding any instance of money having been furnished to any individual for the purpose of surreptitiously leaving the United States. He said he did not know the identity of the Communist Party functionary who would furnish money for this purpose. He was convinced, however, that such a transaction would have to be cleared through EUGENE DENNIS.

#### 8. PERSONAL COURIER SYSTEM

The informant was not aware of any organizational set up in the Communist Party where couriers were used to transmit or carry messages or documents to the Communist Party. He stated that he knew seamen were used extensively for all purposes by the Party.

He said that [redacted] of the Youth Commission, was the person who handled the organizing of seamen for Party purposes. The informant further stated that it is his belief that anybody connected with the "ninth floor" at Communist Party Headquarters travelling abroad or within the United States would be used as a courier. Highly trusted Communist sympathizers would also be used. b6 b7C

With respect to connections of the Communist Party with Communist Parties of foreign countries, the informant mentioned specifically that he was quite sure that there must be a connection between the American Communist Party and the Cuban Communist Party. In this regard, he cited the instance when ISRAEL AMTER went to Cuba in the Winter of 1949-1950 to recuperate. The informant stated that somebody from the Cuban Communist Party made the trip to New York and accompanied AMTER to Cuba. He continued that this matter was handled by BERNIE CHESTER.

#### 9. LECTURER AT COMMUNIST PARTY NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL

The informant recalled that in 1941 while a student at the Communist Party National Training School, New York City, he attended a lecture on "Dialectics of Nature". This lecture was given by an unknown Professor of Chemistry at Columbia University. He recalled that this individual bragged to the class about his frequently going to the General Electric Company at Schenectady, New York, to "smash atoms". The informant said that this individual must have been a Communist Party member inasmuch as it was a high honor to teach and influence future leaders of the Party at this training school. The informant



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described the lecturer as about twenty-five or twenty-six years of age (1941); height, 5'11"; weight, 135-140 pounds; hair, blonde; eyes, blue; build, frail; marital status, married; residence, [redacted] New York City. The informant recalled that [redacted] with alias [redacted] picked up this unknown professor in his car and drove him to the class. [redacted] of the Communist Party in New Orleans and the brother of AL CAPP, the well-known cartoonist.

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#### 10. YALE GRADUATE IN SOUTH AMERICA

The informant recalled that the person whom he described as a Yale graduate went to South America in 1935 or 1936 and spent a few years there either in Brazil or Argentina. This was a special assignment of the Party and this individual engaged in Party work. The informant stated that this person has since returned to New York City and is presently living as a respectable businessman somewhere in Queens County, New York City.

The informant stated that for years since his return from South America, this person has been "out of the picture". It is the suspicion of the informant that he is now engaged in undercover work for the Party. He stated that before he went to South America, this individual spent sometime on the "ninth floor" at Headquarters. He is considered a valuable person.

Prior to his going to South America, this individual was the Educational Director of the Communist Party in the State of Connecticut under [redacted] (phonetic) in the early 1930s. [redacted] was at one time Organization Secretary to [redacted] the Section Organizer in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The informant assumed that this man and his wife met and were married in Connecticut. He stated that he recently met this individual and [redacted] on Long Island, continuing that they had a summer cottage in Island Park, Long Island. They apparently maintain their connection with Party members since the informant knows that they are friends with [redacted] of the Rotograph Company, 817 Broadway, a Communist Party owned printing firm. They are also friendly with [redacted] a Queens Communist Party functionary.

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This unknown individual is described as twenty-five or twenty-six years of age (1932-33); height, 6'0"; weight, 165-170 pounds (1932-1933); brown hair; blue eyes; may wear glasses; married; and has a son [redacted] of age. The wife of this individual is described as follows: Approximately

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forty years of age (1949); height, 5'3"; light brown hair, turning gray; blue eyes; peculiarities, open - pretty face. The informant stated that the wife of this individual was a "Jewish girl from Philadelphia".

11. ABRAHAM BROTHMAN

The informant stated that in approximately the spring of 1949 he was with BERNIE CHESTER on a Saturday morning in BEN'S Luncheonette, 12th Street and University Place. A man who was unknown to the informant came to their table and asked CHESTER to come to his (unknown man's) place on 10th Street to talk to BROTHMAN. CHESTER was reluctant to go, saying something to the effect that he (BROTHMAN) should take care of his own troubles.

The informant stated that ISIDORE NEEDLEMAN was present during this discussion. He also interceded for BROTHMAN. He said that NEEDLEMAN either came with the emissary or was there having coffee with CHESTER and the informant. CHESTER did go to the emissary's place. The informant viewed a photograph of [redacted]. He stated that there was some similarity in the photograph to his recollection of the above-mentioned emissary and said that he was possibly identical, but he was not definitely sure. The informant described this emissary as follows: 48 to 50 years of age (1949); nationality, American; dark brown hair; blue or brown eyes; approximately 5' 11" to 6' in height; build, lean; residence, 10th Street between University Place and Fifth Avenue; peculiarities, mustache, looks like professional-type man, smooth talker, looked like Bohemian intellectual.

On the following Monday or Tuesday, CHESTER related to the informant details that led to BROTHMAN'S trouble with the Communist Party. In approximately 1948 two girls, whom he now recalls to be [redacted] and [redacted] invited BROTHMAN to speak before the Hetti Lapatine Club, Chelsea Section, Communist Party. In his speech, BROTHMAN attacked the Party leaders and defended EARL BROWDER. Subsequently, in August, 1948, at the Section Convention (not National Convention) a resolution criticizing the Party leadership was introduced by [redacted]. The informant stated that in the 1948-1949 registration the Party refused to register [redacted]. They were also in trouble because they refused to contribute substantially to the Party Fund Drive.

In explaining his willingness to talk to BROTHMAN about his troubles, CHESTER told the informant that BROTHMAN was one of the top

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plastic chemists in the United States; that he had contributed substantially to the Communist Party previously; and that he wanted to settle his troubles with the Party arising out of his critical speech at the above-mentioned club before he went to Switzerland. CHESTER told the informant that BROTHMAN had promised that when he returned from Switzerland he would make a substantial contribution to the Party. The informant stated that he did not know MOSKOWITZ and KOGAN were received back into the Party; however, he knew that no further action was taken against BROTHMAN.

The informant then went on to say that BROTHMAN was not a member of any Communist Party branch, but was a member-at-large. During the war years, he was responsible to BERNIE CHESTER and thereafter he was responsible to [redacted]. The informant stated that BROTHMAN must have been held in high regard by the Party. There could be no other reason for his success in avoiding being purged because of his pro-BROWDER sentiments. CHESTER told the informant that BROTHMAN was not a firm person and that he was jittery all the time. In this connection, he told the informant of an incident in 1944 or 1945 when BROTHMAN and CHESTER had a meeting in a restaurant in New York City and CHESTER at that time received something from BROTHMAN. During the course of the meeting, a photographic flash bulb went off in the restaurant and BROTHMAN was very much worried that a photograph had been taken of this meeting.

A photograph of BROTHMAN and MIRIAM MOSKOWITZ were exhibited to the informant, but he failed to recognize them. The informant stated that he had never seen either MOSKOWITZ or BROTHMAN.

## 12. BERNIE CHESTER

The informant stated that CHESTER definitely was connected with JACOB GOLOS. He said that he assumed there was a connection because CHESTER was "not around" when the ELIZABETH BENTLEY story broke in the newspapers. He said that CHESTER remarked to him that GOLOS should not have gotten mixed up with BENTLEY, whom he (the informant) referred to as GOLOS' girlfriend. As further substantiation of this connection, he offered the following story:

In the summer of 1949 during the trial of the eleven Communist leaders, he, the informant, brought the members of the National Committee of the Communist Party to "Cohen's Place" for a meeting. "Cohen's Place" was a studio apartment on the third floor of a building on the north side

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of 22nd Street, just east of Seventh Avenue situated between a hotel and the corner. The building is for the most part a business building, but COHEN occupies a studio apartment on the third floor. His name was on the directory and mail box on the door. The informant stated that there was a suitcase in the place which contained a 35mm. camera, a stand and a lamp. The camera was focused to photograph documents. He said that the lavatory in the studio appeared to be used as a developing room.

The informant said that he believed that "Cohen's Place" had been used by CHESTER for photography for several years and that JACOB GOLOS had also used it. It is to be noted that ELIZABETH BENTLEY has stated that CHESTER attended JACOB GOLOS' funeral. COHEN was described as follows: age, 50 to 55 years (1949); height, 5' 4" to 5' 5"; weight, 135 to 140 pounds; hair, blondish; eyes, blue; occupation, artist.

The informant stated that CHESTER told him that he was in Mexico some time during 1940 or 1941 and that JACK STACHEL was there at the same time. The informant continued that CHESTER in 1940-1941 was active in the Communist underground. He stated that he had two female agents in the Confidential Squad of the New York City Police Department. These two female agents obtained a complete list of the Confidential Squad of the New York City Police Department and furnished the same to CHESTER. With the aid of this list, according to the informant, CHESTER succeeded in exposing policemen who had been planted in the Communist Party by the New York City Police Department.

The informant related that CHESTER is the unannounced treasurer of the New York State Communist Party. He is not aware of the name of CHESTER'S company. He knows that his office is located on the sixth floor at 1 Union Square West, New York City, in the rear of the building. He is listed on the building directory as BERNARD SCHUSTER. He is certain that he has occupied this space since 1945. He does not know his telephone number. He has never had any employees to the informant's knowledge. In fact, the informant has seen CHESTER do his own typing. The informant last visited CHESTER'S office in October or November, 1949.

### 13. STEVE NELSON

The informant stated that NELSON had an extraordinary war record on the part of the Loyalist forces in the Civil War in Spain. When he returned to the United States, EARL BROWDER immediately placed him on the

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National Committee of the Party. Sometime thereafter, he was made Party Organizer at Oakland, California. The informant remarked that this was a most insignificant job for a man of NELSON'S ability. He thought that there was a good reason for this, but he could not elucidate. The informant stated that he had no knowledge of any espionage activities on the part of NELSON. He was not aware of any connection of NELSON with [redacted]

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He stated that while NELSON was the head of the Nationalities Group of the Communist Party, he kept particularly close watch on the Yugoslavian situation and this interest continued after he withdrew from his position with the Nationalities Group. The informant stated that NELSON was not "politically bright", but he was very courageous and an extremely loyal Party member. It was the opinion of the informant that NELSON would perform any assignment that the Party requested. He stated that on one occasion when he was present in NELSON'S office, a seaman brought a package of papers to NELSON from Japan. This package contained Japanese Communist Party newspapers. The informant remarked that it was unusual for an ordinary seaman to have direct access to the office of any Communist Party functionary.

The informant also stated that NELSON was particularly security conscious, and that when a person came into his office he would immediately take the telephone off his desk and put it into a closed drawer of his desk.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. MOISCHE STERN

A photograph of MOISCHE STERN in the uniform of a Russian general was exhibited to the informant and he recognized this photograph as General EMIL KLAEBER. The informant stated that he, the informant, was sent to Canada in 1931 on a Party assignment and remained in Canada until the Fall of 1932. He stated that he believes he saw KLAEBER in Canada during this period.

2. JULIA STUART POYNTZ

The informant stated that around 1940 there was a rumor traveling around Communist Party Headquarters that JULIA POYNTZ had returned to Russia and was living as the wife of [redacted] of the Council of Ministers of U.S.S.R.

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3. MARCEL SCHERER

The informant stated that SCHERER was very close to JOHN WILLIAMSON. He stated that SCHERER is a very intelligent and capable individual and very much trusted by Party functionaries. The informant pointed out that he believed SCHERER had his training in Russia and he would be a very logical person for illegal work of the Party.

4. JOE STAROBIN

The informant stated that STAROBIN was a very trusted person by EUGENE DENNIS and BETTY GANNETT. He stated that he had never heard of STAROBIN before the war, but he became Foreign Editor of the "Daily Worker". In the opinion of the informant, STAROBIN was a very shallow writer and knew little about foreign affairs. He stated that on one occasion he remarked to BETTY GANNETT that STAROBIN lacked the knowledge of and wrote poor articles regarding foreign affairs and BETTY GANNETT in turn remarked, "You don't know what the situation is."

The informant stated that STAROBIN was the person who contacts UN people. He was the UN Editor of the "Daily Worker". The informant stated that STAROBIN would be another person who might engage in illegal activities for the Party.

5. RELATIVE OF [REDACTED]

The informant stated that he recalled the [REDACTED] of the Queens County Communist Party discussing the fact that either [REDACTED] [REDACTED] approached this [REDACTED] as to whether or not he should drop out of the Party when [REDACTED] activities were brought to light. The decision was that this relative of [REDACTED] should drop out of the Party at this time. The informant could furnish no information regarding the identity or description of this individual except to say that he believed he lived in [REDACTED] Queens, Long Island.

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6. PHOTOGRAPHS OF ESPIONAGE SUBJECTS EXHIBITED

Photographs of the subjects in the JULIUS ROSENBERG espionage apparatus were exhibited to the informant and he stated that he definitely recalled the face of MORTON SOBELL. He said that he connected this face with the Communist movement in the 1930's. He could furnish no further details.

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A photograph of [ ] was also familiar to the informant and he connected her with the Communist Party movement in the Lower East Side area of New York City. He remarked that a photograph of [ ] ALFRED SARANT, and [ ] were also familiar to him, but he could not elaborate further. He failed to recognize photographs of any other members of the ROSENBERG apparatus.

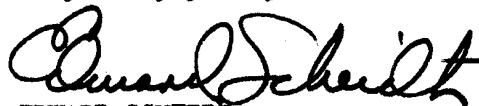

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The informant viewed photographs of HARRY GOLD, ALFRED SLACK, [ ] GAIK OVAKIMIAN, SEMEN SEMENOV, JACOB GOLOS. ANATOLI A. YAKOVLEV. ARTHUR ADAMS. VICTORIA STONE. LYDIA STAHL. [ ]

He stated that the photographs of VICTORIA STONE and [ ] were familiar to him. He connected STONE with the Communist Party functionaries, but could not specifically recall anything further. As to [ ] he remarked about the similarity in facial characteristics with [ ] of JACK STACHEL. It is to be noted that [ ] Other than [ ] and [ ] he informant failed to recognize any other photograph.

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Very truly yours,

  
EDWARD SCHEIDT,  
Special Agent in Charge 



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
U. S. Court House  
Foley Square  
New York 7, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-26-2005

Director, FBI

Re: INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM  
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT ND-588

Dear Sir:

The above captioned Informant, when interviewed on October 6, 1950 regarding legislative activities of the Communist Party, stated that it was the function of the Legislative Secretary of the Communist Party on the national, state and county level to maintain a reservoir of information on a wide variety of subjects dealing with legislative and domestic issues. By having material incorporating the Communist Party viewpoint readily available on every issue, Informant said, the Communist Party was able to quickly furnish unions and other organizations complete information on a wide variety of subjects. According to the Informant, organizations utilizing these services found themselves increasingly dependent upon the Communist Party for up to date material on issues of the day and in time knowingly, or otherwise, accept the Communist Party interpretation of current issues.

## National Level

Informant said that on the national level all divisions of the Party, including the specialists in farm, trade union, negro work, and cultural activities, as a matter of practice, funneled all available information

cc: 100-13473 (SIMON GERSON)  
100-50094 [REDACTED]  
100-80636 (LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES, CP, USA)  
100-24448 [REDACTED] b6 b7C

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regarding their respective fields to the Legislative Bureau of the Party where it was reviewed and processed so as to provide a ready source of material on legislative and domestic issues incorporating the Communist Party outlook.

With the completion of material reflecting the Party approach to the most up to date and varied subjects, he said it was then the function of the National Office of the Party to make such material available to Communist Party headquarters throughout the country. The district offices thereafter were enabled to quickly furnish unions and other organizations in their areas with complete and current information on a wide variety of subjects. Here again by eliminating the need for research by local organizations who consulted them on legislative and domestic issues, the Informant said the Communist Party was able to gain influence and to project its line in that area on a wide variety of issues.

#### New York State Level

The Informant said that the Legislative Bureau of the Party in New York State was made up solely of SIMON GERSON, New York State Communist Party Committee Member, and [redacted] of JOHN GATES, one of the eleven convicted Communist Party leaders, and was located in three rooms on the fourth floor of Communist Party Headquarters at 35 East 12th Street, New York City.

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Informant stated that a complete legislative library with books, publications and pamphlets on a wide variety of subjects was maintained on the fourth floor of the Headquarters and the library was augmented through the efforts of SIMON GERSON, who endeavored to get on the mailing list of every possible group in an effort to keep posted on current issues.

Informant also said that GERSON was at times called in to give a report on New York State legislative activities at the Panel on Legislative Activities at the National Plenum of the Communist Party, but as far as the Informant knew, GERSON did not participate further in Party plenums. In general, GERSON devoted his attention to the all out strategy on political campaigns, coalitions and acted as a spokesman for the New York

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State Board, Organization Department, while [redacted] he said, was more concerned with the domestic issues arising out of consumer groups. She devotes much time to <sup>the</sup> maneuvering of various pressure groups on tenant, health, and anti-discrimination issues and to the organizing of delegations to New York City Council and Albany on issues at such times as it was felt the issues warranted such action.

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The Informant described GERSON and [redacted] as the most "sensitive and responsible people" in the New York State Party to the reactions of the public to current issues of the day and who were able to activate the Party on issues which might have mass appeal.

#### County Level

Informant said that the county operation in the legislative field was best represented from information available to him in New York County where [redacted] correlated and furnished information to unions and other groups in such finished form and so readily that these groups, as mentioned earlier, gradually found themselves accepting whole programs from the Communist Party representing research on subjects that the individual organizations could not do by itself and which in most cases was accepted without question.

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Regarding the preparation of the Communist Party Platform, the Informant said that all sections of the National Office of the Party submitted proposals for material to be dealt with in EUGENE DENNIS' speech to the convention. These proposals were culled over, trimmed and augmented after which they were finally presented by DENNIS as a report to the Communist Party convention.

After DENNIS' report to the convention, legislative activities were set up and later floor discussions were participated in, but the program receiving convention approval was always the program set up in DENNIS' original report.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*  
EDWARD SCHEIDT

Special Agent in Charge.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

607 U.S. Court House  
Foley Square  
New York 7, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-26-2005

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

October 5, 1950

Director, FBI

Re: INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CONFIDENTIAL  
INFORMANT ND-588.

Dear Sir:

Re New York teletype dated September 27, 1950, and New York letter to the Bureau dated September 28, 1950.

The captioned informant is being interviewed by agents of the New York Office, being discreetly brought to the office for interview, and has furnished the following information:

CP, USA - Organization, District 2, New York Division

Informant advised that [redacted] who was [redacted] of one of the committees which staged a demonstration at Foley Square during the trial of the Communist leaders in New York City, had in her possession a list consisting of the names and telephone numbers of the staff of the New York State office of the Communist Party for 1948 and 1949. [redacted] gave this list to the informant for safe-keeping because she did not want to have it in her possession in case she should be detained while participating in her scheduled demonstration at Foley Square. The informant continued that he never returned this list to [redacted].

The list is as follows:

[redacted]  
ST GERSON  
LOU LISKIN

[redacted]  
BE 2-4962 8860 - 18th Street  
122 Fenimore Street  
Brooklyn

[redacted]  
I AMTER

[redacted]  
GR 3-5358

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[REDACTED]  
JOHN LAUTNER WA 9-5243 212 West 22d Street  
[REDACTED]

WILL WEINSTONE ST 4-1779  
[REDACTED]

B. CHESTER 306 East 15th Street  
[REDACTED]

New York County

JIM TORMEY  
[REDACTED]

Kings County

[REDACTED]  
BEN DAVIS NI 6-0444  
[REDACTED]

Queens County

[REDACTED]

Bronx County

[REDACTED]

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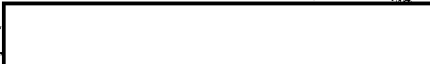
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SAM JAFFE LA 4-1953



BILL NORMAN IR 6-5930



Party Lawyer

100 Fifth Avenue

CP, USA - Funds

Informant advised that the Jewish Labor Council, [redacted] [redacted], organized a Labor Bazaar, the first of which was held in 1946 at the St. Nicholas Arena in New York City. The purpose of this bazaar was to collect funds for the Jewish Labor Council. Representatives of this council canvassed merchants who were sympathetic to the Communist Party requesting goods, furs, and different types of merchandise to be sold at the Labor Bazaar. Also the representatives of the Jewish Labor Council would get quantities of goods on consignment, placing these various types of goods in booths which were managed by members of the Jewish Labor Council.

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Informant continued that in 1948 and 1949 the "Daily Worker" and "Morning Freiheit" took over the Labor Bazaar which, up until that time had been run by the Jewish Labor Council, and changed the name of the bazaar to the Press Bazaar. [redacted] of the Press Bazaar and was able to show a profit of about \$30,000.00 for the 1948 and 1949 bazaar. Informant stated that from this some \$5,000.00 was given to [redacted] [redacted] to be used by the Jewish Labor Council to finance that organization.

In discussing funds and cover companies which also may be used for secret Party espionage activity, the informant advised that WILLIAM WEINER, the financial head of the Communist Party, has an export-import business with

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offices located in an office building in the vicinity of 40th and 41st Streets on Madison Avenue. The exact name of this business and its exact location is not known to the informant.

Informant stated that a friend of his, Dr. MOSES ~~SIMON~~, worked in this office for WEINER and was on the payroll of this company for approximately two or three months during the summer of 1948, prior to SIMON'S departure to Hungary. Informant stated that WEINER had expected SIMON to arrange for his company to do business with various Hungarian companies. However, SIMON has been arrested by the Hungarian Government, charged with being a British agent.

#### Underground Operations, Security

Informant advised that in the middle of 1949 the National Office of the Communist Party called in ANDY ~~REMES~~ to New York City from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was state chairman. REMES was to do some work for the National Committee, namely, to organize a list of private homes which would be available for leading members of the Communist Party to use in case they would have to go into hiding for a period of two weeks or more. REMES asked informant for the names and addresses of reliable comrades whose homes would be available to leading Party members.

Informant stated that he gave REMES two directions to follow:

1. That REMES should contact the county organizers.
2. That the county organizers would then designate the names of the reliable, trusted comrades who would work with REMES.

Informant stated that REMES made numerous contacts, both in Westchester County and Queens County, and that this project conducted by REMES

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lasted for approximately two months. Informant was unable to furnish the identity of any of the comrades selected whose homes would be used for hide-away purposes.

#### Underground Operations, Communications

##### A - Radio

Informant stated that the Communist Party was considering the use of radio communications as late as 1949. Informant continued that ANDY REMES instructed the informant to obtain three SX-43 Hallicrafter radio receiving and sending sets. About one month after REMES' request, the informant was approached by JOHN WILLIAMSON who indicated to the informant that the National Committee was considering the possibility of radio communication between the New York area and other district offices.

Informant stated that STEVE MILLER, alias J. PETERS, also remarked that any radio communication established by the Party would be a mobile radio station in a truck, boat, or automobile because the establishment of a fixed radio station could easily be checked and the location ascertained by the monitoring of the Federal Communications Division.

##### B - Telephone

Informant advised that in 1949 BILL NORMAN remarked to him that a program would be set up to utilize the telephone as a means of communication between various districts of the Communist Party. The telephone was to be used as a relay system whereby, for instance, the National Office wanting to contact its Detroit office by telephone would call a reliable comrade located in New York City. This reliable comrade in New York City would in turn place a call with some other individual, also trusted, in a city somewhere in the middle west. Informant continued that this individual in the middle west, who would be contacted by the comrade in New York City, would in turn call a designated telephone number in Detroit.

Informant stated that this system, in his opinion, was in existence as of that time for security purposes. It was also his opinion that all telephone calls between the top district functionaries were pre-arranged.

##### C - Mail System

Informant stated that WILLIAM NORMAN advised in the fall of 1949

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that the underground structure must begin to organize a mail system on every level. Informant stated that two comrades were assigned to ascertain the names and addresses of trusted, reliable comrades whose residences could be used as mail-drops. The individuals assigned to ascertain these names were [redacted] New York City, telephone number [redacted] who resided at [redacted] with his father. It is believed that this [redacted]

Both of these comrades, after obtaining the names and addresses of individuals whose homes could be used as mail-drops or places of hiding, submitted their lists to the informant in sealed envelopes and he in turn gave these envelopes to [redacted]. From the remarks made by [redacted] the informant gathered that approximately 50 or 60 names had been compiled and turned in.

Informant stated that ANDY REYES also was assigned by the National Committee to contact reliable professional men such as doctors, dentists, etc., whose offices could be used for meeting purposes or for mail-drops by the Communist Party.

Informant stated that in his opinion a personal courier system is in effect and has been for several years by the Communist Party.

#### D - Use of Code

Informant stated that J. PETERS, also known as STEVE MILLER, advised the informant that the Communist Party should consider the use of a code system, explaining that this system has been successfully used by the Communist Parties in Europe.

Informant stated that J. PETERS, prior to his deportation, told the informant that the Party could designate a book to be used both by the national office and district office in the transmitting of messages. This book would be the key to the code. Informant stated that he had no knowledge whether any such code system was placed into effect, or the identity of any books under consideration as a code key by the Party.

#### Underground Operations, Couriers

Informant stated that BERNARD CHESTER, New York State Communist Party Treasurer, mentioned to him that he had past contact with the Communist



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Party in Cuba and had arranged a trip to Cuba for one ISRAEL AMTER.

Informant advised that in his opinion [redacted]  
[redacted] of the Review Commission, has served as a personal courier for the  
Party, and that [redacted] of the Communist Party seamen matters  
and possibly [redacted] of the seamen couriers.

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Informant advised that he is convinced of the fact that the Communist  
Party uses a great number of seamen couriers, but stated that he has no knowl-  
edge of the names or activities of any such couriers.

Informant continued that DOROTHY LOEB was the contact for the  
Communist Party with confidential type people such as Civil Service employees  
in the New York area. LOEB was succeeded by [redacted]

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According to the informant, he believes that the confidential type  
people are now handled by a man whose name he does not recall.

CP, USA - Underground Operations

A - BERNARD CHESTER

Informant stated that in his opinion BERNARD CHESTER is engaged in  
some type of underground activity. CHESTER admitted to the informant on one  
occasion that he was in frequent contact with JACOB SOLOS, former Russian  
agent. Informant stated that even though CHESTER is the actual New York  
State Communist Party Treasurer, he must be engaged in some underground  
activity operating out of his sixth floor office in the building at 1 Union  
Square as of December 1949.

Informant stated that CHESTER was also friendly and apparently  
had contacts with STEVE MILLER, with alias J. PETERS.

Informant stated that he was of the opinion that CHESTER is assigned  
to handle secret Party activity and has knowledge of the existence and  
workings of this type of Party activity. It was the informant's opinion

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that CHESTER has been so engaged for the past several years.

Informant stated that another basis for his belief that CHESTER is engaged in the underground secret Party activity was from a remark passed by CHESTER many years ago, around 1940 or 1941. CHESTER at that time advised the informant that he had received information that the confidential squad of the New York City Police Department were having policewomen join the Communist Party movement as undercover operators. CHESTER advised the informant that he had two girls, who were policewomen, report the identity of the policewomen assigned by the New York City Police Department to join the Communist Party movement. CHESTER stated that with the help of these two girls he was able to obtain the names of these policewomen, and as a result he effectively had them removed from the membership of the Communist Party.

Informant stated that this incident is not familiar to him and when he remarked to CHESTER that he did not recall this activity taking place in the movement, CHESTER stated that the Party did not give any publicity to the uncovering of these policewomen, but merely kicked them out of the movement.

B - MARCEL SCHERER

The informant believes that another individual also engaged in underground or secret type activity is MARCEL SCHERER. SCHERER is a highly regarded, trusted and influential comrade in the Communist Party. Informant stated that as of December 1949 SCHERER was assigned to head the peace petition campaign of the Communist Party.

Informant stated that SCHERER has an international background since he has been trained in Russia, and for this reason plus the respect shown to SCHERER by the Communist Party leaders here, the informant believes SCHERER may be engaged in work of espionage type. Informant stated that in his opinion he would consider SCHERER to be one of the few comrades who could possibly be in touch with Russian contacts.

Informant stated that SCHERER, to his knowledge, had been in attendance at several National Committee meetings and has always been seen.

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to be present at Communist Party national conventions. Informant stated that SCHERER is not the type of comrade who engages or lends his name to open Communist Party activity.

Informant stated that SCHERER has been associated with Architects Technicians Union, and has also in the past been associated with "Soviet Union Today."

C - [redacted]

Informant believes that [redacted] who as of December 1949 was reported to be employed in the [redacted] New York City, and who was also Russian trained, is a highly regarded person by the Communist Party leaders. Due to her international background and her capabilities, informant is of the opinion that [redacted] is engaged in some espionage type activity.

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Informant stated that [redacted] has spent many years in Russia, returning to the United States sometime around 1939 or 1940.

He stated that it was rumored around Communist Party Headquarters that [redacted] was at one time [redacted] of Czechoslovakia.

Informant advised that [redacted] is not openly engaged in Communist Party activity and that her visits to Communist Party Headquarters are held to a minimum. Informant stated that as a matter of fact he could not recall [redacted] being seen around Headquarters more than a few times during the past years of 1948 and 1949.

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He stated that [redacted] has numerous contacts amongst the Party leadership. Informant believed that in view of her past background and her influence in the Communist Party that she may possibly be a contact between the Party here and Russian contacts.

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[redacted]  
Informant stated that [redacted] as of December 1949 was employed at the [redacted] in New York City, and has also been Russian trained.

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Informant is of the opinion that [ ] is the type of comrade who would be utilized by the Party for espionage type activity. Informant continued that [ ] is not openly associated with Communist Party activities today.

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E - JOHN WILLIAMSON

Informant stated that from among the present Communist Party leadership it would be his opinion that JOHN WILLIAMSON, National Labor Secretary of the Communist Party, is one of the few top leaders in the Party today who has knowledge of the existence and possibly the identity of the comrades engaged in secret underground activity. Informant explained the reason for his opinion was based on the fact that WILLIAMSON was very close, both in a social and business fashion, to STEVE MILLER, alias J. PETERS. Informant stated that he observed numerous conferences which took place prior to PETERS' deportation from this country between WILLIAMSON and PETERS.

Informant stated that at the time PETERS was arrested by the United States Government, [ ] whom the informant believes was also engaged in underground type activity, was observed by the informant to be in daily contact with JOHN WILLIAMSON. From this the informant gathered that WILLIAMSON was in close contact with PETERS' activity prior to his arrest and was possibly carrying on in PETERS' behalf during the time of the leader's apprehension.

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Informant stated that from the few remarks passed to him by WILLIAMSON, such as WILLIAMSON asking the informant if he could recommend any reliable comrade or business person who was pro-Communist and who was travelling to South America that he, WILLIAMSON, could make use of. Informant stated that WILLIAMSON made this remark to him around 1947 or 1948. Informant stated that he gathered the impression that WILLIAMSON wanted to approach any reliable comrade for the possibility of utilizing this person who would be travelling to South America as a personal courier for the Party. Informant stated that at the time of the request made by WILLIAMSON, he was unable to furnish the identity of any reliable person travelling to South America.

Informant ventured the opinion that WILLIAMSON would be one of the few top leaders who probably has a complete knowledge both to the operation of the secret Party apparatus and no doubt was aware of the identity of a number of people involved in such activity.

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CP, USA - National Board

Informant gave his impression of the present leadership of the Party, mainly the 11 convicted Communist Party leaders, and rated these individuals as to their influence and standing in the Communist Party. It should be noted, however, that his rating of the following individuals is not based on fact, but is based on the informant's opinion of these leaders.

Informant stated that ~~EUGENE DENNIS~~ and JOHN WILLIAMSON are the most influential and enjoy the greatest authority in the top leadership circle. Informant continued that DENNIS and WILLIAMSON are very friendly and in the past have worked somewhat as a team.

These comrades have received political advice and suggestions from ~~ALEXANDER REDDLEMAN~~ of the "Morning Freiheit" who, in the informant's opinion, is recognized as the best political analyst in the Party today.

Informant advised that after the expulsion of BROWDER, the entire leadership of the Party operated in confusion, but finally DENNIS was pushed "as the crown prince", received the backing of WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, and hence became quite authoritative in the Communist Party. Informant stated that when DENNIS became Secretary, WILLIAMSON, through DENNIS' assistance, automatically passed a great amount of power and authority on to WILLIAMSON in regard to Party policy and decision. Informant stated that DENNIS and WILLIAMSON were the most powerful of several small cliques existing among the National Board members.

Informant continued that the next group or clique would be made up of ~~JOHN GATES~~, ~~ROBERT THOMPSON~~ and ~~GUS HALL~~. This group is recognized as the younger leaders of the Party being checked closely by DENNIS and WILLIAMSON.

Informant stated that the clique of GATES, THOMPSON and HALL and the authority exercised by them brought a reaction from the older Communist Party leaders. Informant explained that the sudden rise to power of GATES, THOMPSON and HALL brought about a feeling of jealousy and unrest among the older comrades who had been working for years in the movement. Informant stated that the reaction to the younger element taking over leadership of the Party was that this group came from nowhere in the movement without proving themselves, advancing to the top leadership positions. Informant stated that as a result of this promotion of these younger leaders, discontentment and lack of Party interest became apparent in the movement. Therefore, it was

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necessary for the DENNIS - WILLIAMSON clique to get together with the second clique of GATES, THOMPSON and HALL and introduce a policy of strict discipline in order to "bat" the comrades back into line. Informant stated that the freedom of expression which was enjoyed to some extent by older members of the Party was no longer enjoyed, that decisions and directives handed down by this group had to be accepted without comment.

Informant stated that the other leaders such as GREEN, STACHEL, DAVIS, WINSTON, POTASH, WINTER, are all individuals who followed majority rule in regards to Party policy; this Party policy being that which is set out by DENNIS and WILLIAMSON.

CP, USA - United Nations Personnel

Informant advised that he had very limited knowledge of the mechanics of the Communist Party functions in the United Nations, but he was aware that when any comrades received jobs at the United Nations they were instructed to give up all open Communist Party activities and thus would be considered Communist Party members at large.

The person contacting United Nations Communist Party members who were considered a special underground group as of December 1949, was [redacted] Communist Party State functionary. Informant continued that [redacted] collected the dues from these people employed by the United Nations.

The only comrade that the informant could recall was one [redacted] (first name unknown). According to the informant, [redacted] is employed as a speed typist in the United Nations and is a Party member. Informant advised that [redacted] indicated to him that [redacted] mingles with anti-Communist Party groups at the United Nations for the purpose of picking up information for the Party. Informant believes that there are other comrades who assist [redacted] in this type of activity, but their identities were never revealed to him.

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CP, USA - Political Activities

Informant advised that the Communist Party works at attempts to control the American Labor Party. He stated that political activity of the Communist Party as of December 1949 has been carried on under the name of the American Labor Party with the Party working conscientiously during the past years for the election of VITO MARCANTONIO. Informant stated that Comrade [redacted] admitted to him that while he, [redacted] served as a Manhattan campaign

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[ ] for VITO MARCANTONIO in the 1934 elections, [ ] collected Communist Party dues from MARCANTONIO at that time.

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Informant stated that he was also advised that [ ] New York County Communist Party official, is a personal friend and a Party contact or liaison link of MARCANTONIO.

Informant stated further that comrade BERNARD CHESTER admitted to him that during the 1948 MARCANTONIO campaign, CHESTER paid to MARCANTONIO \$15,000.00 as part of a Party contribution towards MARCANTONIO'S campaign.

Informant stated that he recalled that CHESTER advised that one Saturday morning MARCANTONIO and BILL NORMAN contacted CHESTER and asked for the money in a very short period of time (in terms of hours). CHESTER advised the informant that at this time MARCANTONIO was very angry and upset, and indicated that he was about to break with the Communist Party unless they could raise this amount of money for him immediately. According to the informant, CHESTER advised that he was able to raise \$15,000.00 in a very short period of time and gave this money to MARCANTONIO as part of a Party contribution toward the campaign.

Informant stated that he was advised by GURLEY FLYNN during the war years around 1944 that [ ] was EARL BROWDER'S personal contact at the White House.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS

Informant advised that since he has undergone a great mental strain and since he is physically tired as a result of several days of interview, informant requested to be excused from further interview through the period September 28 to October 2, 1950. Informant advised that during this time he intends to take a little rest and engage in some form of recreation such as fishing, but that he would remain in the city and would be available for any emergency.

It should be noted that the informant is cooperative and willing to be of assistance in furnishing information concerning his knowledge of past Communist Party activities. Informant stated, however, that names and events which have happened over the past years are hard to recall, especially the identity of comrades involved in various types of activity. Informant stated, however, that as time passes he will endeavor to recall the identity of comrades

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engaged in the secret type of Communist Party activity. Informant was requested to refresh his memory in an endeavor to identify comrades whom he believed to be in the employ of the United States Government. The informant promised to comply if at all possible with this request.

Informant stated that even though he is willing to cooperate with the Bureau and furnish as much information as he possibly can, he has specifically requested that his identity be kept strictly confidential.

The informant appears to be intelligent, personable, and has admitted that his past association in the Communist Party was a terrible mistake resulting in his squandering away 20 years of his life. Informant expressed himself as desirous of cooperating with the Government and will do anything possible to atone for the mistakes he made by being a member of the Communist Party which he considers to be a menace to the United States form of government. It is believed that the informant is sincere in his desire to do whatever he can to cooperate with the Government at this time.

It is to be noted that the informant is of Hungarian extraction and speaks with a slight accent. It should be noted that the informant has not requested or mentioned anything relative to his receiving any form of financial assistance from this office. He did mention that in regard to looking for employment that if the Bureau could aid him in any way at a later date he would appreciate it very much. Informant advised that his needs in life are simple and that wages and hours are no object. He continued that his greatest hindrance in seeking employment appears to be his lack of references since he spent the last 20 years in the employ of the Communist Party.

No commitments were made to the informant at this time, and more details concerning informant's intentions relative to employment will be discussed and the Bureau so advised at a later date.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*

EDWARD SCHEIDT, SAC



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, New York

October 11, 1950

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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ON 6/19/90

30585

Director, FBI

Re: INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM  
CONFIDENTIAL NATIONAL ~~CONF. INFT.~~  
DEFENSE INFORMANT 588

Dear Sir:

Re New York teletype of September 27, 1950, to the Bureau and New York letter to the Bureau of September 28, 1950.

The captioned informant is being interviewed by agents of the New York Office, being discreetly brought to the office for interview, and has furnished the following information on October 6, 1950:

~~UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE  
WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)~~

The informant stated that there is a UE section in the Communist Party which is headed by JOHN WILLIAMSON, National Labor Secretary, who has delegated the main responsibility for UE direction and policy making to his assistants STEIN, Assistant National Labor Secretary, and [redacted] New York State Communist Party. As [redacted] was a former [redacted] of UE, District #4, he is thoroughly acquainted with UE problems and methods of dealing with them. The informant described Communist Party control of UE as almost 100 per cent but not as "tight" as the control exercised by the Communist Party over the Fur and Leather Workers Union.

The technical staff consisting of telephone operators, clerks, international organizers and representatives operating at or out of UE headquarters at 11 East 51st Street, New York City, are completely under the direction of [redacted] ALBERT J. FITZGERALD or JAMES J. MATLES, Director of Organization. [redacted] as described as the [redacted] of Czechoslovakia during World War II.

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As an example of the close control exercised by the Communist Party over UE, the informant pointed out that in May or June, 1949, SID STEIN, Assistant National Labor Secretary, and Former District Organizer of the Communist Party in New Jersey, who was brought into the national leadership picture during the Communist Party trial in 1949 came to the informant and requested [redacted] of JULIUS EMSPAK, International UE Secretary-Treasurer. STEIN suggested that [redacted] of the Communist Party in the Needle Trades Industry and who [redacted] in the UE office, 11 East 51st Street, New York City, be used to do the investigation in this matter. In about one week this woman whose name the informant does not know came back with a report which stated that [redacted] name unknown, had been a member of the Communist Party for fifteen years. [redacted] had been studying art and her only friend in the office was [redacted]. The informant interpreted this act to mean that EMSPAK had doubts about [redacted] and wanted the Communist Party to check on her.

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A complete check was made on UE staff people by the Communist Party during the UE fight with JAMES CAREY of the rival right-wing union, the International Union of Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America-CIO.

UE policy unquestionably follows the Communist Party line. The Communist Party believes that they can drive the UE to follow the Communist Party line "up to the point of breaking". The UE is a vital instrument of the Communist Party in the latter's fight against the CIO, the AFL and all reactionary forces. The UE has constantly maintained a working class and progressive position and does not support American Imperialism, but has consistently fought for the Communist Party program. The informant noted that at the recent Fifteenth International Convention of the UE in New York City in September, 1950, that some slight "compromise" was made on the Korean question but that does not hinder the Communist Party in maintaining its control of the UE as the party wants [redacted] to take up some bona fide trade union positions as that makes him, as well as the union, less vulnerable to reactionary attacks and criticism as being a "tool of the Communist Party."

In connection with the articles of [redacted] "Daily Worker" columnist, concerning the recent UE convention, the informant said that he would carefully study these articles which are a "primer" of Communist Party trade union policy in connection with the UE and report on them.

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The role of the UE in the event of war is unquestionably that of slow-down, strikes, and sabotage as well as a campaign to demoralize the workers on the production line. The informant pointed out that there are "many forms of sabotage". The informant had no further information to contribute concerning a Communist Party program of sabotage in UE plants.

The Communist Party line is given to the UE by SID STEIN who personally telephones a secretary of either MATLES, EMSPAK or FITZGERALD at the UE headquarters. It is also a habit of WILLIAMSON'S and STEIN'S to consult with various trade union progressives at lunch time. These meetings are held at any large cafeteria where the meeting "can get lost in the crowd". Some possible meeting places were said to be a cafeteria located on 42nd Street, on the South side of 42nd Street near Sixth Avenue, which runs through to 41st Street, and another cafeteria located at 50th Street and Eighth Avenue which the informant described as the restaurant formerly operated by [redacted] Another favorite meeting place is the lobby of motion picture theaters where there are benches or settees, such as Loew's Lexington, 50th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City.

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Although WILLIAMSON pointed out at one trade union meeting at Communist Party headquarters that "we do not interfere in union problems" the informant said that this was not believed by any persons present at this meeting but that WILLIAMSON said this just "for the record".

Most of the UE literature is published at Photograph Company, Inc., 817 Broadway, New York City, which is controlled by the State Organization of the Party.

UE CAMP, SKY LAKE,  
PAULING, NEW YORK

The informant pointed out that Communist Party schools have been conducted at the UE camp by [redacted] former Communist Party organizer of the Party who is now in Yugoslavia, and by [redacted], affiliated with

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the American Committee For the Protection of the Foreign Born and the State Education Department of the Communist Party. [ ] was sent to Sky Lake by the Communist Party in order to correct "misinterpretations" of Communist Party history by [ ] which were reported by a number of UE "students".

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The informant identified the following UE officials as members of the Communist Party with an exception to this noted in the case of ALBERT J. FITZGERALD:

ALBERT J. FITZGERALD, President: FITZGERALD was described as an opportunist who is a Communist Party sympathizer. He is not known to be a member of the Party. He was a local figure in a UE shop in Lynn, Massachusetts, and as the Communist Party wanted an Irish Catholic who was not a CAREY, i.e. would not rebel against Communist Party dictates, FITZGERALD was brought into the UE limelight. He is susceptible to flattery and luxury and is easily played upon by the Communist Party.

JAMES J. MATLES, Director of Organization: MATLES has been a member of the Communist Party since 1931 and a former district functionary of the Communist Party in New York in 1931. He is described as a member at large. He does not attend Communist Party meetings. MATLES obtained the UE charter in 1936 from the CIO for the radio and electrical field and together with JAMES LUSTIG, UE representative of District #4, and JULIUS EMSPAK, International Secretary-Treasurer, were the driving force in the organization of the UE. MATLES has the organization well in hand and all the main speeches and reports are given by him. The informant noted that in the 1948 and 1949 conventions it was MATLES who "went to work on CAREY", former officer of the UE. There has been some criticism of MATLES' policy for "leaning backwards too much" which was first detected in the UE 1948 convention. There is an element of individualism in MATLES disliked by the Communist Party.

JULIUS EMSPAK, International Secretary-Treasurer: EMSPAK is a member at large of the Communist Party. The informant is not too well acquainted with EMSPAK but recalled that in 1945 when the Hungarian faction

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of the Communist Party was building a trade union EMSPAK volunteered for this work. He marched in the 1948 UE contingent of the May Day Parade.

[redacted] <sup>NEW YORK</sup>  
Los Angeles:  
In 1934 and 1935 was a member of Section 18 of the West Side Communist Party, New York City. He was also educational director in a Party branch.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] Local 475, New York:  
[redacted] is a member of the Communist Party who attended a Communist Party meeting at the Hotel Mc Alpin in October, 1948 concerning the raiding of the UE by the UAW.

~~NAT~~ COHEN, Executive Board Member, Local 475, New York:  
COHEN was a National Committeeman of the Communist Party in 1945 and a former Party organizer in Toledo, Ohio. COHEN is now employed by a shop in Brooklyn. His Communist Party career was described as "went up fast, down faster".

[redacted] Local 475, New York:  
[redacted] of the Communist Party in the lower East Side section in the 1930's.

[redacted] Local 1227, New York:  
[redacted] of the Transport Workers Union of America.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] Local 430, New York: [redacted]  
[redacted] of the Communist Party in 1949. Identified as a member of the 430 Club of the Communist Party.

CLARENCE ~~AN~~ HATHAWAY, Business Agent, Local 1139,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota: He was a former editor of the "Daily Worker" and member of the National Board of the Political Committee of the Communist Party.

Let to Dir.  
NY 66-3901

b6  
b7C  
JAMES LUSTIG, UE Representative, District #4: LUSTIG attended the 1945 and 1946 Communist Party convention. Has been a member of the Communist Party since 1925. LUSTIG was informant's instructor in 1929 in the National Trade School which was then located at Union Square. This school was attended by prospective Hungarian leaders for a period of three months. LUSTIG was teaching on decisions of the Sixth Congress of the Communist International. LUSTIG is believed to be still a member of the Communist Party.

LUSTIG'S brother, BELA LUSTIG, was a veteran of the Spanish Civil War and is a member of the Veterans of Abraham Lincoln Brigade, whom the informant met in Bari, Italy, during World War II. In 1946 BELA LUSTIG was a Captain in the Hungarian Political Police.

[redacted] Local 1114, Chicago: [redacted]  
[redacted] a member of the Hungarian Section of the Communist Party. [redacted] was a member of Section [redacted] of the Communist Party in New York City in the 1930's and was a member of the Resolutions Committee of the UE at the Fifteenth International Convention.

b6  
b7C  
[redacted] of the Farm Equipment Workers which merged with UE in November, 1949. Considered a member of the Communist Party. Followed Communist Party policy in opposing the UAW when it was raiding UE.

[redacted] Local 420: A charter member of the Communist Party.

[redacted] National UE, Assigned to Local 430, New York: [redacted] A section organizer of the Party who is held in high esteem by the Party and has been used in political campaigns.

Let to Dir.  
NY 66-3901

[redacted] District [redacted] Schenectady,  
New York: A member of the district committee of the Young Communist League in  
New York in 1939 and 1940. Has done work in Pittsburgh.

b6  
b7C

MARCEL SCHERER, Former UE Representative, District #4:  
In charge of the New York Labor Conference For Peace which is under the direction  
of the Communist Party. A member at large of the Communist Party. Taken out  
of the UE for work on the "Peace Petitions" and probably will be returned to  
UE work in the future.

WILLIAM SENTNER, International Vice President, District  
Number 8, St. Louis: A former member of the National Board of the Communist  
Party during World War II.

[redacted] Local 430, New York: On  
July 28, 1949, [redacted]  
[redacted] right opportunism and breach of discipline. Nothing was effected  
in this matter.

[redacted] Local 475: [redacted]  
[redacted] mentioned above.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] Chicago: An old-time Communist Party member  
and a member of the Farm Equipment Workers. A member of the Veterans of Abraham  
Lincoln Brigade who attended a Spanish Veterans dance at Manhattan Casino during  
the winter of 1948 where he was seen by the informant.

[redacted] District [redacted]  
A member of the State Committee of the Communist Party in 1946 and 1947; frequently  
attended Communist Party meetings, one of which informant recalled took place Oct., 1948  
at the Hotel Mc Alpin in New York. This meeting concerned the UAW raiding of  
UE. It is noted that [redacted] has been reported to be residing in Albany,  
New York, and has no affiliations at this time with District number [redacted]

Let to Dir.  
NY 66-3901

LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ACT - 1947

In connection with the signing of non-Communist affidavits by trade union officials, the informant pointed out that all trade union officers who are members of the Communist Party have sent registered letters of resignation from the Communist Party, a great many of which [redacted] to WILLIAM NORMAN, Assistant State Secretary of the New York State Communist Party, has in her possession. The envelopes containing the letters of resignation from the Communist Party or a blank piece of paper on which the resignation may be typed later are addressed to the New York State Communist Party. These resignations are to be used in the event that the Labor Management Relations Act - 1947 is applied to these Communist Party trade union officers.

b6  
b7C

The informant furnished the following miscellaneous information concerning the individuals listed below and who were identified by the informant as members of the Communist Party:

[redacted] United Public Workers of America, was a member of the State Committee of the Communist Party in 1947 or 1948.

b6  
b7C

JOHN T. MC MANUS, Business Manager of the "National Guardian", 17 Murray Street, New York City, considered to be a member of the Communist Party. Has worked on the "New York Post", "Daily Compass" and "PM".

[redacted] is a member at large of the Communist Party. Attended a meeting in 1947 or 1948 at 100 Fifth Avenue, New York City, in the office of ABE UNGER concerning the expulsion of BELLA DODD. [redacted] stated that DODD was too powerful to be expelled by the Communist Party. DODD was her mentor in Communist Party work. This meeting was also attended by [redacted] of the Teachers Union, Local 555, United Public Workers of America.

b6  
b7C



Let to Dir.  
NY 66-3901

b6  
b7C

[redacted] of the International Association of Machinists, attended Communist Party State conventions in 1945, 1946 and 1947 after which he went into the background. He is known to be a close friend of ROBERT THOMPSON, member of the National Committee, CP, USA, and of [redacted] for the New York State Communist Party.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*  
EDWARD SCHEIDT  
SAC.

SAC, New York

October 19, 1950

Director, FBI

CNDI - 588

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-26-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

*Copy to [unclear]*

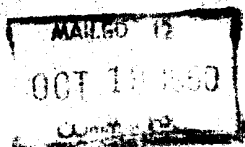
Rebulet September 28, 1950 which instructed you to furnish the Bureau a summary of the pertinent information developed after each interview with the informant. In the future such a summary will not be necessary. You are instructed, however, to continue to prepare separate communications for the Bureau and interested offices under appropriate captions, incorporating pertinent information concerning organizations and individuals mentioned by the informant. As you have been previously instructed, it will be necessary to break down and channel into the appropriate files all information formerly furnished in summary form.

*m*

JWP:bjc

*Bpi*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



RECORDED - 36

*14*  
**100-16177-61**

OCT 20 1950  
80

*Bj*

*7*

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

New York 7, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-26-2005

er 27, 1950

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

Director, FBI

Dear Sir:

RE: CONFIDENTIAL  
SECURITY MATTER - C

[redacted] advised that he met [redacted] twice during 1948, both times at his home on [redacted] Manhattan. Both of these visits to [redacted] home were to collect CPUSA [redacted]

The informant stated that [redacted] was carried by the Party as a member at large because [redacted] did not want to have any obvious contacts with the CPUSA.

b6  
b7C  
The informant continued that [redacted] stated that he was a salesman, and that in the course of his work, he makes business calls [redacted] was afraid that if his connection with the CPUSA were known, he would be restricted from visiting [redacted]

The informant continued that he has no knowledge of the details of [redacted] but stated that [redacted] for the "Daily Worker" in New York City. The informant described [redacted] as follows:

Height  
Weight  
Build  
Eyes  
Hair

--

cc: Bufile 100-330707 [redacted]  
100-51951 [redacted]  
66-3901 [redacted]

BLK:MDC  
100-new

RECEIVED - 30  
INDEXED - 30

100-16177-62  
NOV 1 1950  
RECEIVED 62

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

58 NOV 20 1950

~~Confidential~~ Letter to Director  
NY 100-new

The informant stated that [ ] was [ ] with the New York City Police Department a number of years ago, but that he has no knowledge of the details of [ ] connection with the New York City Police Department.

b6  
b7C

In view of the foregoing, a case file is being opened on [ ] in the New York Office, and investigation will be conducted to ascertain if [ ] should be made the subject of a Security Index Card.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*

EDWARD SCHEIDT  
Special Agent in Charge

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, New York



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

November 4, 1950

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-20-2005 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

b6  
b7C

Re: [redacted] wa.  
SECURITY MATTER-C  
(Bureau File 100-193577)

Dear Sir:

On October 17, 1950 [redacted] was interviewed by SAS [redacted] and Eldred W. Cox at the New York Office. ND-588 furnished the following information concerning the captioned individual.

b6  
b7C

The informant recalled that sometime during 1947-48-49 [redacted] was a [redacted] at New York City. The informant believed that [redacted] was either [redacted] of the section.

b6  
b7C

Informant stated that he understood that sometime in 1949 [redacted] had gotten a job as [redacted] in New York City.

The foregoing is submitted for information.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*  
EDWARD SCHEIDT  
SAC

cc: NY 66-3901

EWC:MRW  
100-43341

RECORDED - 64

100-16177-63

NOV 6 1950

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-193577

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
New York 7, New York

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS 23, 1950  
ON 10-20-2005

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

Re: INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CONFIDENTIAL  
NATIONAL DEFENSE INFORMANT 508

Dear Sir:

Re New York letter to the Bureau, 10/11/50.

On page 5, line 3, there appears the address of Los Angeles after the name of [redacted]. This should be New York. On page 6, paragraph 6, line 1, is set out the name of WILLIAM PATTERSON. This should be [redacted].

The above is being furnished so that the Bureau can change the copies of the above-referenced letter. Copies of the New York letter have been correspondingly corrected.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*  
EDWARD SCHEIDT  
Special Agent in Charge

JFD:ac  
66-3901

RECORDED - 126

100-16177-64

EX-31

RECEIVED

SAC, New York Personal Attention

November 9, 1950

RECORDED - 125

Director, FBI

JOHN LAUTNER

NO 588

124

100-16177-65

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-20-2005 BY 60309 AUC

EX-3 Reurlet October 30, 1950, set  
status of Lautner as to employment. It  
stated even if he is able to secure regular employment, it is  
his desire to continue to be available to the Bureau for  
interviews and to assist the Bureau in any way possible.

According to referenced letter, Lautner has agreed  
to testify in a court of law to any information he has furnished  
and he has indicated a sincere desire to help the Bureau.

At the present time you are paying him \$50.00 per week  
for the information he is providing on Communist matters. In  
view of his long association in Communist affairs which is a deterrent  
in his efforts to secure employment, it will be difficult for the  
Bureau to aid Lautner in his efforts to obtain employment. If Lautner  
were in the position of Palmes Hidalgo, Herbert Philbrick, et al, the  
Bureau would suggest an all-out effort to obtain a job for Lautner.  
You should consider some manner of interim payment to Lautner during  
his present period of unemployment which may be able to ease his  
financial situation. The payments made to him in this regard would  
be for information of value and certainly would be appreciated by  
him. The amount of such payments should be based upon your knowledge  
of Lautner's position and value to the Bureau and your recommendation  
in this regard should be transmitted to the Bureau.

JDD:mjt

RECEIVED READING ROOM  
FBI  
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York 7, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
O#9920990-2005

r 31, 1950

Director, FBI

Re: JOHN LAUTNER  
CONFIDENTIAL NATIONAL DEFENSE INFORMANT 588

Dear Sir:

ND 588 stated that [redacted] Avenue, New York City, is to be married during the week of October 29, 1950. As a result of this marriage, the informant will take up temporary residence in a hotel.

The informant continued that on January 15, 1950 he visited [redacted] in Boardman, Ohio and at that time [redacted] sensed that the informant was having difficulties with the Communist Party, USA. [redacted] told the informant that he could possibly secure employment for him in the steel mills of Youngstown, Ohio, if the informant should ever need a job. [redacted] was interested in getting ND 588 into union work if the informant ever left the Party. According to the informant, [redacted] has no interest in the Communist Party, USA.

In regard to [redacted] offer the informant stated that he has no desire to enter into any type of union activity and added that he was employed by the steel mills in the early twenties and has no urge to return to this type of work.

The informant continued that he is anxious to get started on the next phase of his life and that at present he can see no future for himself. ND 588 stated that he desires to remain in New York City, if at all possible.

The informant advised that he explained to the New York Employment Bureau that due to his 20 years employment by the Communist Party, USA and his subsequent expulsion from the Party, he is entirely without references except for an honorable discharge from the United States Army.

COPIES DESTROYED

RECORDED - 126

BLK:TJD  
66-3901

EX-21

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C



124

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Letter to the Director  
NY 66-3901

The informant added that the New York State Employment Bureau representatives are sympathetic to his present difficulties.

The informant stated that he did not make his original contact with the Bureau with the thought in mind of securing future employment through aid from the Bureau. The informant advised, however, that he would appreciate anything the Bureau could do to overcome his lack of references, stating that once he got a start he would be able to stand on his own merit.

The informant continued that he is going to place applications with the Voice of America and with the United Nations at Lake Success, New York, if at all possible.

He stated that he is well qualified for employment with the Voice of America because of his knowledge of the Hungarian language and his political background. Also the informant did propaganda work and radio script writing with the Physical Warfare Section of the Army Intelligence during World War II in Bari, Italy.

The informant stated that perhaps he would be valuable as a civilian employee with the Army Intelligence.

In regard to these contemplated employments, the informant stated that he is aware of the fact that he is not, under any circumstances, to reveal his present connection with the Bureau.

The informant was emphatic in stating that when he is able to secure employment, it is his intention to continue to be available to the Bureau for interviews and to assist the Bureau in any way possible.

It is to be noted that during the long series of interviews conducted by agents of this Office, the informant has been very cooperative and has appeared to be sincere in his desire to assist the Bureau. The informant readily agreed to testify in a court of law to any information furnished by him in Bureau cases.

It may be further noted that although a payment of \$50.00 per week is being made to the informant, he at no time indicated that he desires payment of any kind for his services.

CONFIDENTIAL Letter to the Bureau  
NY 66-3901

No commitment or promises of any kind were made to the informant concerning any aid or assistance which the Bureau could render him in obtaining employment.

It was suggested to the informant that he should attempt to secure employment, if at all possible, through his own effort. The informant stated that he was making an effort on his own by contacting employment agencies and private companies, but that the "stop gap" appears to be not lack of ability but lack of employment references for the past 20 years.

The informant stated that it was only within the past month that he has seriously contemplated securing permanent employment since he realizes that he is a middle-aged man and must soon establish himself both financially and socially.

The above is being furnished for the Bureau's review and opinion. It is felt that since the possibility exists that this informant may be considered an important witness in Bureau cases arising from the Internal Security Act of 1950 that the Bureau may be interested in rendering some assistance to this informant.

Very truly yours,

*Edward Scheidt*

EDWARD SCHEIDT  
Special Agent in Charge

Office Memorandum •

Sum

UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: November 8, 1950

FROM : SAC New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDSUBJECT: INFORMATION FURNISHED BY NEW YORK  
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT ID-598DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Re my letter dated October 13, 1950, instant matter.

Page 3, under the sub heading JOHN WILLIAMSON, line 11, the last sentence should be corrected to read as follows:

In this connection during this period, [ ] was constantly with him which was an indication to the informant that WILLIAMSON was much concerned regarding PETERS' status.

b6  
b7c

100-16177-66

DIO:CMH  
65-3901

MR. LAUGHLIN

A. H. BELMONT

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

December, 4, 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Reference is made to memorandum dated November 28, 1950, from Mr. McInerney, of the Department, requesting that reports of Confidential Informant T-1 in the report of Special Agent Russell S. Garner of New York dated October 21, 1950, be made available for review by the Department and that suitable arrangements be made for an early interview of this informant in Washington, D.C. in connection of his use as a witness before the Subversive Activities Control Board.

On December 2, 1950, I called the New York, and in the absence of SAC Schofield and ASAC Whelan, I spoke to Mr. Granville. I instructed that he check to find out whether this informant is available by Departmental representatives.

You will recall that this informant is John Gutzner, who has furnished some excellent information since his break with the Communist Party.

Supervisor Marchessault called from New York on the morning of December 4, to advise that this informant is available to testify and will proceed to Washington at any time, except on December 7, when he has some business to handle. The informant did not have any money and, therefore, would need financing to come to Washington.

An appropriate reply should be prepared for the Department.

AHT:lle

100-10171  
NOT RECORDED  
72 DEC 16 1950

December 6, 1950

Assistant Attorney General James M.  
McInerney, Criminal Division

Director, FBI

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Reference is made to your memorandum of November 28, 1950 wherein you requested the identity of Confidential Informant T-1, mentioned on page 521 of the summary report of Special Agent Russell S. Garner at New York City dated October 21, 1950.

Q For your confidential information this informant is John Lautner. Several reports concerning this individual have been furnished to the Division of Records.

Mr. Lautner is available and will proceed to Washington any time, except December 7, 1950 when he has some personal affairs to handle. For your additional information Mr. Lautner stated that he does not have any money and would need financing to come to Washington, D.C.

bjc

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-12117

100-12117  
NOT RECORDED  
78 DEC 18 1950

100-16177

PERSONAL ATTENTION

SAC, New York

January 30, 1951

Director, FBI

JOHN LAUTNER

ND 588

Your file 66-3901

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC

TAM/MLT/CLS

RECORDED - 116 / 100-16177-67

Based upon the personal recommendation contained in your letter of January 22, 1951, approval is granted to pay Lautner at a decreased rate of \$1.00 per interview, effective February 1, 1951, for a six months period. These interviews should be limited to two a week and if they exceed that number you should advise the Bureau.

cc - Mr. Travers Rm. 5505)

JPD:BHR

G. I. R. - 7

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
FBI  
JAN 31 10 30 AM '51

RECEIVED  
FBI  
JAN 31 10 30 AM '51

1951



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
NEW YORK, NY

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

January 22, 1951

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-27-2005

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI.

RE: JOHN LAUTNER,  
ND 588.

CONF. INFT

Dear Sir:

Rebutal October 11, 1950, authorizing this office to pay informant \$50.00 per week during current lengthy interviews.

ND 588 within the past month has been interviewed in the New York Office at the rate of about two full days a week. During these interviews the informant has furnished valuable information relative to the different phases of Communist Party activity. The information which the informant furnished the interviewing agents will be set forth in the appropriate case files.

It should be noted that the informant was recently interviewed by Special Assistants to the Attorney General [redacted] relative to the informant's prospective testimony before the Subversive Activity Control Board in the case involving the Communist Party. It is anticipated that ND 588 will testify in the Government's behalf according to the comments made at the end of the interview by [redacted]. ND 588 is also endeavoring to obtain a position but to date has met with negative results. In the future, it is expected that the informant will be interviewed at the rate of about one day a week or possibly less on Communist Party activity.

The Bureau is requested to authorize this office to compensate the informant at the rate of \$20.00 per interview which interview generally lasts at least seven to eight hours and is generally conducted in the New York Office. Bureau is requested to make this change of pay to \$20.00 per interview instead of \$50.00 a week, effective February 1, 1951, for a six months period.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD SCHEIDT,  
SAC.

66-3901  
EWB:DJG

*Let to New York  
1/29/51 decrease rate  
of pay to \$20.00 per  
interview, eff. Feb. 1, 1951  
for six mos. period.*

RECORDED - 55  
EX-76  
37  
100-16171-67

SAC, New York

February 23, 1951

Director, FBI

PERSONAL ATTENTION

JOHN LAUTNER

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE ND-588

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

100-16177-68

Reurlet February 5, 1951.

Since Lautner is not furnishing current information on Communist Party activity due to his expulsion from the Communist Party, he should be designated a confidential source. A notation to that effect has been made at the Bureau and you should do likewise. There is no objection to your continuing the use of his permanent symbol number.

With regard to Lautner's desire to obtain a position with the Voice of America, it is the Bureau's opinion that affirmative steps should not be taken by the Bureau to assist him in this regard. If, however, Lautner submits an application to VOA, the Bureau will furnish the facts of his recent cooperation for VOA's confidential information but at the same time it will be pointed out by the Bureau that the Bureau cannot vouch for Lautner. You may tell Lautner the Bureau will acknowledge his recent cooperation but cannot, due to his past Communist affiliation, deny such association or vouch for his ability in relation to any employment he may desire.

Authority is given to furnish Lautner up to \$125 to be used by him in attempting to obtain a card in the Bricklayers Union.

In view of Lautner's financial condition, after the present interviews with him are terminated, you should recommend a particular sum which you think he should receive if he is able to be of assistance in regard to Bureau cases requiring his cooperation.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

cc- Mr. Travers, 5505

JDD:(mac) tgr  
62 MAR 21 1951

LEB 5 2 55 PM  
72 FEB 1 1951  
RECEIVED MAIL ROOM



Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS5, 1951  
ON 10-27-2005

FROM : SAC, New York

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER

ND-588

(Bureau File 100-16177)

54585

Reourlet 10/31/50 and Bulets 11/9/50 and 1/30/51.

ND-588 has been cooperating with this office since approximately October, 1950, and during these past several months has furnished valuable and reliable information concerning his knowledge of Communist Party activities. This informant has furnished reliable information relative to such phases of Communist Party activity dealing with underground activity and security measures, as well as the National Groups Commission, Communist Party connection with the ALP, etc. This informant has furnished valuable information concerning National Communist Party functionaries.

The informant has been interviewed by agents of this office relative to the various phases of Communist Party activity as mentioned above and has rendered wholehearted cooperation with every agent. It is to be noted that the informant has been honest in his appraisal of Communist Party activity, and when the informant was not in a position to answer a question based on his past Communist Party association, the informant unhesitatingly remarks that he does not know an answer to a particular question. The informant has also indicated that when he answers a question put to him, he will answer the question based on facts or he will indicate whether his answer is based on hearsay remarks as related to him by other Communists whom he knew.

ND-588 has advised that he has endeavored to secure employment through the United States Employment Service as well as private employment agencies, but with negative results thus far. The informant has advised that he has made a twenty dollar down payment towards receiving a Union card in the Bricklayers Union in New York City in an endeavor to find part-time employment as a bricklayer at all possible, in the Spring season when activity in such work is on the rise. Informant stated that in order to receive a Union card, remarking that ~~he~~ was a member of the Bricklayers Union, it will cost him about \$125.00. Informant stated that at the present time he has approximately \$300 personal savings, he must count on for his sole support, which is excluding the money received from this office.

The informant has continued to reside in a small single room at the

EWB:MRW  
66-3901

192 gmmw Bulman  
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2-23-51  
gth

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Letter to the Director  
NY 66-3901

Hotel, 100th Street and Broadway, New York City, since about December, 1950. Informant has advised that because of limited funds available to him plus the fact that he realizes that sooner or later his financial connection with this office will have to come to an end, he has humbly asked the Bureau if they can render any assistance at all in securing employment for him. Informant stated that because of his past Communist background between the period 1930 and 1950, this portion of his life, he believes, will serve as a mark of distinction to his detriment in securing employment in the future.

In discussing with the informant what particular type of employment he had in mind in which he thought this Bureau could be of assistance to him, the informant stated that in view of his past Communist Party connection and his extensive knowledge of the Communist Party Line and its methods of propaganda, he thought he may be able to serve himself and his Government as well by being connected, if at all possible, as an analyst or research man, or otherwise, in the Voice of America. The informant stated that since he is free and not tied down with family obligations, his wife being divorced from him, he would be willing to work any hours or serve the Government in any city or State, if he were granted the opportunity to become connected with the Voice of America. Salary would be no object as long as it afforded him a living wage.

Informant stated his desire to be connected with the Voice of America would be one way of trying to expose the Communist Party either here or abroad in one way or another through the medium of the Voice of America.

It should be noted that the informant is more than willing to testify in any Bureau case as well as testify as a Government witness under the Internal Security Act of 1950.

The informant has set forth a resume of his background which he thinks may qualify him for some type of position with the Voice of America.

Resume:

"As to my knowledge of the Hungarian language:

- 1) Went to Hungarian Public, High School and 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to Teachers College.
- 2) From 1929 up to present spent substantial time in Hungarian Affairs in U.S.

Letter to the Director  
NY 66-3901

- "(a) From 1930 to 1933 editorial worker, speaker for the 'Uj Elore', Hungarian Daily.
- (b) 1941-42 editorial worker for 'Magyar Jovo'.
- (c) 1942 National Secretary of the Hungarian Section of International Workers Order.
- (d) At war period, 1943-45, was with Psychological Warfare Branch for 24 months in Africa and Italy. Monitored Hungarian programs, wrote leaflets in Hungarian for distribution in Hungary by 15th U.S. Air Force, also did broadcasting in the Hungarian language to Hungary from Radio Station Bari, 283 m. longwave.
- (e) 1945-46 was active in Hungarian affairs with 'Magyar Jovo', Hungarian Council for Democracy, Hungarian Relief, etc.

"Being a leading member of the Communist Party for 20 years, I feel competent in detecting Communist propaganda in any form, also qualified to refute, counteract such propaganda.

"I am a graduate of War Department Military Intelligence Training School at Camp Ritchy, Md.-1943. 5th Class."

In view of the informant's cooperative attitude and humble request seeking assistance in any way possible from this office, the Bureau is requested to consider the request of this informant.

The above information is set forth to the Bureau in the event the Bureau desires to sound out or contact a high official of the Voice of America who may be in a position to be of some assistance in helping the informant become associated with the Voice of America. It should be noted that no promises of any kind have been made to the informant pertaining to any assistance this office could render. As a matter of fact, the informant has been advised of the Bureau's feelings as set forth in their letter dated November 9, 1950.

However, it is felt that since the informant is facing a financial obligation and is somewhat upset about his future in so far as making a living, that in dire necessity the informant may attempt to peddle his information or knowledge of Communist Party activity to either private agencies who are interested in securing such information against the Communists, or to other Government agencies, such as, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, where such people as the informant have been given jobs and then are called on to testify in the Immigration and Naturalization Service's cases.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Office Memorandum

GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont  
FROM : F. J. Baumgardner  
SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER  
NEW YORK CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE

DATE: February 23, 1951

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

PURPOSE

To advise that John Lautner, a long-time Party member who recently began to cooperate with the New York Office, has indicated a desire to be connected with the Voice of America. Lautner stated in view of his background he should be of value in exposing the Communist Party, either here or abroad and the VOA would be a good medium.

DETAILS

The New York Division has advised that John Lautner, a former active Communist, has been cooperating since October 1950 in providing valuable and reliable data on Communist Party activities. His information relates to many phases of activity dealing with underground matters and security measures, as well as the National Groups Commission and national functionaries.

Lautner has stated that he has been unsuccessful in obtaining employment through the United States Employment Service as well as private employment agencies, undoubtedly due to his past twenty years' association with the Communist Party. He has made a \$20 down payment on a union card in the Bricklayers Union in New York City but in order to receive a card, it will cost him about \$125. Lautner was formerly a member of the Bricklayers Union. He said he has about \$300 personal savings which must support him exclusive of the money he is being furnished by our New York Office. He is being paid at the present time \$50 per week but as soon as all past information in his possession is obtained, this sum, of course, will be reduced and perhaps entirely terminated.

Lautner's wife has divorced him and he has no family obligations. He said he would be willing to work any hours or serve the Government in any city or state if he were granted the opportunity of Government employment, particularly the Voice of America.

Enclosure (7)  
JDD:mac

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100-16177-69

MAR 22 1951

According to Lautner, with his extensive knowledge of the Communist Party line and its methods of propaganda, he thought he could be able to serve himself and his Government by exposing the Communist Party either here or abroad through the medium of VOA. Lautner has previously stated he is more than willing to testify in any Bureau case, including the Internal Security Act of 1950. New York points out that Lautner is in dire financial straits and may attempt to peddle his information or knowledge of Communist Party activities to either private agencies interested in Communism or to other Government agencies such as the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In keeping his original promise to the New York Office that he would maintain his connection with the Bureau in confidence, Lautner has advised that he has not contacted any private company, Government agencies, newspapers or writers in an attempt to sell information in his possession. He has not threatened to take any such step if the Bureau cannot render him assistance at this time, but New York points out the possibility remains of such action on his part because of personal hardship.

#### OBSERVATIONS

John Lautner was born in Hungary on January 1, 1902, and at the age of sixteen months his family came to the United States and returned to Hungary when he was six years old. In July 1920, he and his family returned to the United States and he held various jobs such as bricklayer, paperhanger and mill worker. Lautner joined the Communist Party in 1929 and was very active until his expulsion on January 17, 1950. He was expelled on a charge of being an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency which he denied. At his request he was interviewed by the New York Office on September 20, 1950, and since that time he has been very cooperative. Payments of \$50 per week were authorized on October 10, 1950, and have continued to the present time.

With regard to assisting Lautner in obtaining employment, the Bureau pointed out in its letter of November 9, 1950, that the Bureau could not suggest an all-out effort to obtain a job for him in view of his long association in Communist affairs. It is believed the Bureau cannot place itself in the position of assisting Lautner in obtaining employment, but the Bureau can, if called upon, furnish the true facts of his cooperation in the past few months. It is also believed that the

Bureau could assist Lautner in obtaining a union card as a bricklayer by helping him pay the necessary fee for a union card which is about \$125.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that New York be authorized to furnish up to \$125 to be used by Lautner in attempting to obtain a union card as a bricklayer. New York will be advised, if such is approved, that the Bureau will not take any affirmative steps to obtain employment for Lautner but if he submits an application for VOA, the details of his recent cooperation will be made known to VOA for its information. In view of Lautner's past Communist affiliation, the Bureau will not be able to vouch for him, however, in connection with a job at VOA or any other place.

*Wm* *1/3*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-27-2005

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C;  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT-1950JOHN LAUTNER-GOVERNMENT WITNESS  
(Bufile 100-372598)

54584

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

For the confidential information of the St. Louis Office, JOHN LAUTNER, a former Communist Party leader who was expelled from the CP in January of 1950, has been cooperating with the New York Office for the last several months. LAUTNER has been interviewed by attorneys for the Department of Justice and it is anticipated that he will be called as a government witness in the prosecution of the CP under the Internal Security Act of 1950.

Since LAUTNER may be used as a government witness, the St. Louis Office is requested to obtain certified copies of the Army service record for JOHN LAUTNER, Army Serial Number #32622865, Technician 4th Grade, Headquarters Command 2679.

LAUTNER received an honorable discharge from the Army Separation Center, Fort Dix, New Jersey on 6/20/45.

St. Louis is requested to furnish the New York Office with the certified copy of this Army record which upon request from the Department of Justice attorneys, will be made available to them by the New York Office.

2cc: St. Louis  
1cc: NY file 66-3901

100-16177-70

RECORDED 52

EX-104

EWB:JJC  
100-102320

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS

TO : Director, FBI ON 10-27-2005

FROM : SAC, Salt Lake City

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
 INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950  
 JOHN LAUTNER - GOVERNMENT WITNESS  
 Bureau file 100-372598

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

54583

Relet, New York, 3-16-51.

Divorce Decree "131192, Washoe County Clerk's Office, Reno, Nevada, reflected that LARRY LAUTNER obtained a divorce from JOHN LAUTNER on August 16, 1950 on the grounds of extreme cruelty, mental in nature. JOHN LAUTNER made an appearance through Attorney ARTHUR F. LASKER by virtue of a Power of Attorney signed by JOHN LAUTNER, June 26, 1950, giving LASKER power to represent JOHN LAUTNER in the divorce action. The testimony at the hearing was ordered sealed by the Court and, therefore, not subject to review except on Court order.

A certified photostatic copy of the above decree was obtained and is being furnished the New York Division with a copy of this letter.

The report of SA [redacted] 7-19-50, Washington, D. C., entitled National Lawyer Guild Internal Security C, contains information to the effect that in December, 1949 an anonymous source of information made available a list of members of the National Lawyer Guild. The name of [redacted] of Reno, Nevada was on this list.

Indices of the Salt Lake City office contain no pertinent information relative to [redacted]

RUC

FEH: CB  
 100-8108

cc: New York (1 Encl) (100-102320) REG. RRR

100-16177- 71

RECORDED - 61  
 INDEXED - 11

EX-6

12/11/51



## MEMORANDUM • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: April 12, 1951

FROM : SAC, NY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT:

CP, USA

DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC

IS-C

TAM/MLT/CLS

INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950  
JOHN LAUTNER - GOVERNMENT WITNESS

(Bufile 100-372598)

JOHN LAUTNER, potential Government witness in the prosecution of the CP under the Internal Security Act of 1950, has advised that he has an understanding with [redacted] attorney of the Department of Justice, that LAUTNER would review material, newspapers, etc., that would tend to show the tie up of the CP, USA with other Communist Parties. LAUTNER stated that he would review current material, the classics, all of LENIN'S selected and collected works for such material. LAUTNER also made available to this office a copy of his notes which he has furnished by letter to [redacted]

b6  
b7c

LAUTNER advised that in reviewing the newspaper, "For A Lasting Peace for People's Democracy," dated 1/26/51, the organ of the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers Party, the article entitled "Outstanding work of Creative Marxism," 25th anniversary of J. V. SALINO'S work "Problems of Leninism," is set forth:

## V - VODA-PEKSA

"Comrade STALIN routed the contemptible enemies of the Party and people - the Linoviews, Trotskyites and others who claimed that Leninism was not on international proletarian teaching but a purely Russian product and who played into the hands of BAUER and KANTISKY, who also denied the suitability of Leninism for other countries. Life has fully confirmed Comrade STALIN'S thesis of the international significance of Leninism. . . . Who, indeed would say today that Leninism is not suitable also for France, Italy, Britain, the USA and all other countries!

"V.I. LENIN pointed out that the transitions from capitalism to socialism will be accompanied by a diversity of political forms, arising from the specific historical

cc: Bureau (Cominform)

NY 66-3901 (P&amp;C)

NY 100-39695 RECORDED - 18

EJB:JDF  
100-102320

INDEXED - 18

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100-16177-72

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Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-102320

"conditions of the different countries and peoples. However, the essence, wrote LININ, 'will inevitably be the same: 'the dictatorship of the proletariat.'"

The following article appeared in "For Lasting Peace" February 2, 1951:

"Mighty Force for Proletarian Internationalism"  
by L. RAUTIN

"Nowadays, the banner of proletarian internationalism unites hundreds of millions of people all over the world.

"The Communist Party - bearers of the ideology of proletarian internationalism - have become stronger organizationally, and their prestige and influence among the broad masses have grown immeasurable. The international Communist movement has become even more organized, still more consolidated around the Soviet Union which is building Communism, around the leader of world Communism, STALIN.

"The strength of the international Communist movement has precisely in the fact that all Communist Parties, on the basis of experience of the C.P.S.U.(B) and on the basis of their own experience, are guided in their entire policy by the Stalinist thesis that Leninism is the generalization of the experience of the revolutionary movement of all countries, that the basic principles of the theory and tactics of Leninism are obligatory for proletarian parties in all countries, that Bolshevism is a model of tactics for all."

February 9, No. 6 Issue - Three column review with picture of GENE DENNIS' book:

"Ideas They Cannot Jail"

front page:

"Movement in U.S. Against War Preparations

"The movement against the Government's intentions to introduce conscription and compulsory military training for young of 18 and upwards is spreading in the United States. At the Young Peoples General Assembly for Peace in Chicago recently more than 200 delegates representing the youth of 15 states unanimously expressed themselves in favor of peace

Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-102320

"talks between the Great Powers, against calling up of young men of 18 into the army and against universal military training.

"Two hundred representatives of the women's Peace Committees of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania are leaving for Washington to lodge a protest against conscripting 18 year olds, the arming of Germany and to demand the cessation of the war in Korea. . . . "

Speaking of the characteristic features of the dictatorship of the proletariat, Comrade STALIN defined its three main aspects:

"1. The utilization of the power of the proletariat for the suppression of the exploiters, for the defense of the country, for the consolidation of the ties with the proletarians of other lands, and for the development and the victory of the revolution in all countries.

"2. The utilization of the power of the proletariat in order to detach the soiling and exploited masses once and for all from the bourgeoisie, to consolidate the alliance of the proletariat with the masses, to enlist these masses for the work of Socialist construction and to assure the State leadership of these masses by the proletariat.

"3. The utilization of the power of the proletariat for the organization of Socialism, for the abolition of classes, for the transition to a society without classes, to a society without a state.

"The proletarian dictatorship is a combination of all these aspects. Not one of these three aspects can be advanced as the sole characteristic feature of the dictatorship of the proletariat. On the other hand, it is sufficient, under the conditions of capitalist circularment, that even one of these three features be lacking for the dictatorship of the proletariat to cease being a dictatorship. Therefore, not one of these three aspects can be omitted without running the risk of distorting the concept of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Only all these three aspects taken together give us a complete and finished concept of the dictatorship of the proletariat."

Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-102320

"For A Lasting Peace"  
January 5, 1951 issue, front page

"30th Anniversary of the French Communist Party

"The Central Committee of the French Communist Party received messages of greetings from the Communist Party of China, the Polish United Workers Party, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Hungarian Working People's Party, the Communist Party of Bulgaria, the Rumanian workers Party, Albanian Party of Labor, Communist Party of Italy, Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Communist Party of Germany, Communist Party of Austria, Communist Party of the U.S.A., British Communist Party, Communist Party of Belgium, Communist Party of Holland, Luxemburg, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Spain, Cabalomia, Morocco, Tunis, Algiers, Canada, Cyprus, Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, India, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Lebanon, Trieste and others.

"For A Lasting Peace"  
January 5, 1951, issue - front page - 4 column heading

"15th National Convention of Communist Party of U.S.

"To the Fifteenth Convention of the Communist Party of the United States of America

"The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union sends fraternal greetings to the Fifteenth Convention of the Communist Party of the United States.

"We wish the Communist Party of the U.S.A. success in its struggle against reaction, for the vital interests and rights of the working class, of all working people in the United States of America, for the ideological strengthening of the Party ranks, for lasting peace among the peoples.

"May international solidarity of the working people strengthen in the struggle for peace, democracy and Socialism.

"Long live the friendship of the people of the United States of America and the Soviet Union!

"Long live the Communist Party of the United States!

"Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union."

Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-102320

"For A Lasting Peace"  
January 19, 1951, No. 3 issue  
page 3

"American People Fight for Peace and Democratic  
Liberties.\*

by Gus Hall,  
National Secretary, Communist Party  
United States

"For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy!  
Bucharest, Organ of the Information Bureau of the Communist  
and Worker's Parties

"Excerpts from the report delivered at the  
15th National Convention of the Communist Party of the United  
States held in New York, December 20-31

"Leninism - invincible banner of International  
Communist movement.

(3 column editorial on front page)

"When death wrested the helm from LENIN'S hands,  
STALIN took LENIN'S place. The great STALIN - the closest  
and most loyal friend and companion of LENIN - upheld the  
great banner of LENIN, rallied the Bolshevik Party and the  
International Communist movement around his behests. STALIN  
further elaborated the vital questions of Leninism, enriched  
it by new teachings, raised Marxism to a new and higher level.

"Leninism is Marxism of the ~~era~~ of imperialism and  
of the proletarian revolution. To be more exact, Leninism is  
the theory and tactics of the proletarian revolution in general,  
the theory and tactics of the dictatorship of the proletariat  
in particular." (Stalin)

"The contemporary situation confronts the Communist  
Parties with a number of vital and complicated tasks. The  
central task is the organization of the world-wide struggle  
for peace. .

"With renewed strength the working people in all countries  
look to the standard bearer of peace - Comrade STALIN."

Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-102320

"LENIN laid the ideological, theoretical, organizational and political foundations of the Communist Parties. The ideology of Leninism has triumphed completely in the Communist Parties. Bolshevism has become the basis of their strategy and tactics. In the complex labyrinth of the class struggle, the Communist Parties were, and are, guided by the advanced teaching of LENIN-STALIN. All Communist Parties regard the great and glorious Party of LENIN-STALIN, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, as a model for themselves."

A book "How Do We Raise the Question of a Labor Party?" by EARL BROWDER reflects as follows:

Page 2, para. 1

"Our revolution points out that the political changes that have taken place in 1934 among the masses demand that we review our whole attitude towards the question of a Labor Party. . . . .

"The question was greatly discussed in the Commissions of the Sixth World Congress, and finally, the decision which was written into the thesis of the Congress was that proposed by STALIN."

Page 12  
(JACK STACHEL)

"The Labor Party, even a genuine Labor Party, is not and can not be a substitute for the Communist Party. The Communist Party is the only revolutionary party of the workers which can organize and lead the masses to emancipation from capitalist exploitation."

Page 19

"While the Labor Party has a program of immediate demand that are in the interests of the workers, while it serves under present condition in the U.S.A. to accelerate the breaking away of the masses from the capitalist parties and to unite them for independent political mass action, The Communist Party does not stop here, but tries to educate and organize the masses not only how best to fight for the immediate demands, but also for the abolition of capitalism, which is possible only on the basis of the revolutionary program of the Communist Party."

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NY 100-102320

D. Z. ~~MANUILSKY~~'S report to the 17th Congress of the Communist Party - Soviet Union, held January 26 to February 10, 1934 in Moscow, entitled "The Revolutionary Crisis is Maturing."

Page 335.

"For years the Comintern has been battling with the Italian Communist Party in order to break down the resistance of the Italian comrades to work in fascist trade unions, etc.... They have not mastered the secret of using that language of Aesop which, without diminishing its revolutionary class content, may stir and capture the imagination of the workers"

The above is furnished for the Bureau's information.

It should also be noted that LAUTNER has received and will receive \$25.00 a day plus \$9.00 expenses while in Washington, D. C., when he testified as a Government witness for the Department.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 23, 1951

DEFERRED

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

CODE UNDERLINE

Transmit the following message to: SAC, NEW YORK

RECORDED - 109/00 - 16177-73

JOHN LAUTNER. CS NYC FIVE EIGHT EIGHT. REURTEL MAY TWENTY-TWO.

EX-31

AUTHORITY GRANTED COMPENSATE INFORMANT FOR MAY SEVENTEEN, EIGHTEEN  
AND NINETEEN AT TWENTY DOLLARS PER DAY AND HE MAY BE UTILIZED AT  
THE SAME RATE FOUR DAYS A WEEK DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE  
CASE AGAINST THE COMMUNIST PARTY FUNCTIONARIES.

HOOVER

JDD:KMB

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

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Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TELETYPE

MAY 23 1951

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SENT VIA

65 JUN 11 1951

3 31 PM

Per SG

Enc. 7/11/71  
1830  
MAY 23 1 13 PM '51  
RECEIVED READING ROOM  
FBI  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE



# F.B.I. RADIOGRAM

4-42a

DECODED COPY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

FROM NEW YORK 5-22-51 NR 221445 11:58 AM

DIRECTOR URGENT

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Alden \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JOHN LAUTNER, CSNYC FIVE EIGHT EIGHT. REBULET JANUARY 30, 1951 AUTHORIZING TWENTY DOLLARS PER INTERVIEW TWO DAYS A WEEK. INFORMANT HAS BEEN RENDERING COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE TO AGENTS THIS OFFICE IN PREPARING CASES ON TOP CP FUNCTIONARIES WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR PROSECUTION BY USA, SDNY. INFORMANT APPEARED NYO ENTIRE WEEK FROM MAY FOURTEEN THRU NINETEEN, NINETEEN FIFTY-ONE, SPENDING APPROXIMATELY SEVEN HOURS A DAY IN THE OFFICE. INFORMANT HAS BEEN PAID AT THE RATE OF TWENTY DOLLARS AN INTERVIEW UP THRU AND INCLUDING MAY 16, 1951. BUREAU AUTHORITY REQUESTED TO COMPENSATE INFORMANT FOR ADDITIONAL DAYS OF MAY 17, 18 AND 19 AT TWENTY DOLLARS PER DAY AND TO GRANT NEW YORK OFFICE AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE SERVICES OF INFORMANT AT THE RATE OF FOUR DAYS A WEEK DURING THE PREPARATION FOR PROSECUTION ON CP OFFICIALS. PLEASE SUTEL.

RECEIVED: 5-22-51 12:24 PM

MRC  
RECORDED - 109

EX-35

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

I. TELETYPE

4-41a

DECODED COPY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

WASH 20 SAN FRAN 2 LOS ANGELES 1 FROM NEW YORK 21 4:11 PM

DIRECTOR AND SACS URGENT  
CONF. INFT.

JOHN LAUTNER, NYC CS 588. INFORMANT ADVISED NYO THIS DATE THAT BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED HIM BY [REDACTED] ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, ON JULY 20, THAT DEPARTMENT AND BUREAU PLAN TO HAVE HIM TESTIFY BEFORE GRAND JURIES LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON CP CASES. INFORMANT REMARKED THAT [REDACTED] TOLD HIM TO CONTACT LOS ANGELES OFFICE UPON ARRIVAL IN THAT CITY JULY 23 NEXT. INFORMANT ADVISED THAT HE WILL DEPART VIA AMERICAN AIRLINES, FLIGHT 11, LEAVING NYC 10:00 PM, STANDARD TIME, JULY 22 NEXT, SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE LOS ANGELES JULY 23 NEXT 12:00 NOON. INFORMANT INSTRUCTED TO TAKE LIMOUSINE FROM LOS ANGELES AIRPORT INTO LOS ANGELES PROPER AND WILL TELEPHONICALLY CALL SAC R.B. HOOD REQUESTING AGENT CONTACT HIM RELATIVE TO SUITABLE HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND IF ANY INTERVIEWS MAY BE DESIRED BY AGENTS. INFORMANT DESCRIBED AS FORTY-FOUR, FIVE FEET EIGHT AND A HALF, GREYISH-BROWN HAIR, ONE SIXTY-FIVE POUNDS, GLASSES AND WILL BE CARRYING COPY OF LIFE MAGAZINE. LOS ANGELES SHOULD HAVE AGENT MEET INFORMANT ON JULY 23 NEXT AND ASSIST HIM IN MAKING LIVING ARRANGEMENTS ETC. INFORMANT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CO-OPERATIVE WITH BUREAU IN FURNISHING INFORMATION ON CP ACTIVITIES. INFORMANT IS A FORMER FUNCTIONARY OF THE NY STATE CP AND IS FAMILIAR WITH LEADING CP FIGURES. INFORMANT WILL SPEND FIRST WEEK OR TWO IN LOS ANGELES AND THEN WILL PROCEED TO SAN FRANCISCO WHERE HE WILL ALSO TESTIFY. INFORMANT IS TO MEET WITH GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS [REDACTED] IN LOS ANGELES. SINCE INFORMANT STILL HAS SIXTY DOLLARS DUE HIM FROM NYO FOR SERVICES RENDERED, THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO SUTEL WHETHER LOS ANGELES WILL MAKE THIS PAYMENT OR WHETHER NYO SHOULD SEND CHECK TO LOS ANGELES OFFICE. BUREAU MAY DESIRE TO AUTHORIZE LOS ANGELES

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's coding systems.

RECORDED - 96

100-16177-74

b6  
b7C

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# F.B.I. TELETYPE

4-41a

DECODED COPY

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
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PAGE 2

AND SAN FRANCISCO TO COMPENSATE INFORMANT FOR ANY ASSISTANCE HE MAY RENDER TO EITHER OFFICE IN FURNISHING INFORMATION ON PAST CP ACTIVITIES IN THOSE AREAS SINCE INFORMANT HAS INDICATED HE IS SHORT OF FUNDS BECAUSE MONEY DUE HIM AS GOVERNMENT WITNESS BY THE DEPARTMENT IS BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL THE END OF HIS TESTIMONY.

SCHEIDT

RECEIVED 7-21-51 5:08 P.M. LL

TRANSMITTED TO LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's coding systems.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

0-9a

JULY 23, 1951

URGENT

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

CODE UNDERLINED

Transmit the following message to: SAC'S, LOS ANGELES  
SAN FRANCISCO  
NEW YORK

CONF. INFT. 288

JOHN LAUTNER, NYC CS FIVE EIGHT EIGHT. RE NEW YORK TEL JULY TWENTY-ONE LAST. LOS ANGELES SHOULD PAY LAUTNER SIXTY DOLLARS DUE HIM FROM NEW YORK OFFICE FOR SERVICES RENDERED. LA AND SF ARE AUTHORIZED TO COMPENSATE INFORMANT ON C.O.D. BASIS FOR ANY ASSISTANCE RENDERED ON PAST CP ACTIVITIES IN THESE AREAS. *may 6-1*

HOOVER

CC - Mr. Travers, 5505

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

JDD:kmb

G.I.R.-5

RECORDED - 102

JUL 24 1951  
24

EX-21  
100-16177-75

RECORDED  
JUL 24 1951  
6 22 PM '51

TELETYPE

23 1951

SENT VIA

10:38 PM

Per

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Gandy

AUG 6 1951

SECTION

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, New York  
 SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER,  
 NYC CS 588

DATE: 7/31/51

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONF. INFT.

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-27-2005

Rebulet 1/30/51.

This informant has furnished valuable information to the New York Office relative to Communist Party leaders who are presently under investigation and has supplied information on Communist Party organizational activities.

It should be noted that while the informant was associated with the Communist Party, he was considered a New York State Communist Party functionary, and as such, his position brought him in contact with many of the Communist Party leaders, both on the state and national levels.

Informant has furnished information which he received while in the Communist Party relative to Communist Party underground activity and Communist Party security measures.

This informant has been extremely cooperative in rendering any assistance he can to this office.

The U. S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York has also expressed great satisfaction [redacted] before Grand Jury Hearings in the SDNY. [redacted]

[redacted] before the Grand Jury which handed up indictments on the arrested Communist Party leaders other than the original eleven top leaders.

Informant has been supplying oral information to Agents of this office during the past six months. He has been contacted on an average of three times a week. However, [redacted] before the Grand Jury, he was contacted more frequently.

Informant has been compensated in the amount of \$20 per interview, which interviews generally last from five to six hours, informant appearing in person at the New York

EWB:KWF  
66-3901

AUG 14 1951

SE 37

100-16177-76

Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 66-3901

Office. However, his appearance at this office has not been made public, in that discreet means are utilized in having informant brought to the New York Office.

At present, informant is on the West Coast, where it is expected that [redacted] the Grand Juries both in Los Angeles and San Francisco. The Bureau has authorized both San Francisco and Los Angeles to compensate informant for any information he may render relative to past Communist Party activities affecting that area.

It is anticipated that informant will appear as a chief Government witness in many of the Bureau's cases throughout the country.

This office is requesting Bureau permission to continue to utilize the services of informant for an additional six months' period effective August 1, 1951 at the rate of \$20 an interview, on an average of two interviews a week.

EE  
SAC, New York

August 9, 1951

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~JOHN LAUTNER~~

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE - 588

ch 2-1  
ch 5-1

Enclosed are the original and memorandum copy of a Department of Justice transportation request No. J256, 328. These should be delivered immediately to [redacted] use in travelling to Baltimore, Maryland, for an appearance before a Federal Grand Jury which will consider indictments under the Smith Act of 1940. [redacted] should be advised that he will be compensated on the same basis as that used during his recent trip to Los Angeles, California.

[redacted] should be advised to be present at the office of SAC, C. E. Carson in Baltimore, Maryland, at 6:00 PM, Sunday, August 12, 1951, for an interview.

Enclosure

c.c. J. D. Donohue (Detached)  
/HB:eu

AC

RECORDED - 122  
JUL 10 1951  
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RECEIVED-HVIF  
AUG 14 1951  
AUG 21 1951

100-16177-77  
AUG 14 1951

*[Handwritten signatures]*

VAB

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

FBI PITTSBURGH

8-22-51

9:33 PM EDST

JSG

DIRECTOR AND SAC, NEW YORK

URGENT

[REDACTED] DEPARTED PITTSBURGH 2:15 EDST  
TODAY VIA GREYHOUND BUS. CAN BE CONTACTED CARE OF  
[REDACTED]

OHIO, TELEPHONE [REDACTED] UNTIL AUGUST 26TH NEXT. THEN  
PLANS TO BE IN NEW YORK CITY MONDAY MORNING AUGUST 27TH  
NEXT WHEN HE WILL CONTACT NEW YORK OFFICE. FOR INFOR-  
MATION.

ROBEY

WA 1025PM OK FBI WA CN  
OK FBI NYC ECJM

RECEIVED:

8-22-51

10:38 P.M.

MLM

RECORDED - 57

1/00 = 16177-78

AUG 27 1951

18 Sept 51

EX-70

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated  
outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in  
order to protect the Bureau's coding systems.



# F.B.I. TELET

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DECODED COPY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDDATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

WASHINGTON 4 NY 1 FROM BALTIMORE

DIRECTOR AND SAC NEW YORK

URGENT

CP, USA - BRIEF, IS - C. JOHN LAUTNER WILL BE INTERVIEWED  
BY USA, BALTIMORE, AS PROSPECTIVE WITNESS FOR SMITH ACT TRIALS  
HERE. BALTIMORE DESIRES SUMMARY REPORT ON THIS INDIVIDUAL OR  
IN LIEU THEREOF COPIES OF ALL INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS AND OTHER  
DATA SHOWING COMPLETE ACTIVITY IN CP, DETAILS OF BACKGROUND  
AND CRIMINAL RECORD, ARMY RECORD AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF EXPULSION  
FROM CP. IN LATTER REGARD, ALSO DETAILS OF ANY INVESTIGATION  
THAT WAS DONE CORROBORATING LAUTNER-S STATEMENTS RE APPLICATION  
FOR PASSPORT IN JANUARY, 1950 AND TRIP WITH JACK KLING TO  
CLEVELAND AT SAME TIME. EVALUATION OF THIS INDIVIDUAL BY  
AGENT WHO HANDLED HIM DESIRED. INTERVIEW AT BALTIMORE WILL  
BE HELD POSSIBLY MONDAY NEXT, ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE BY  
DEPARTMENT.

ALDEN

BA R 1 NY DW  
BA R 4 VA ELR

RECEIVED: 11-27-51 1:16 PM RTL

NEW YORK ADVISED BY TELETYPE

RECORDED - 5

100-16177-79

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated  
outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in  
order to protect the Bureau's coding systems.

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Gandy ☒

UNRECORDED COPY FILED

DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-27-2005

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-16177)

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER  
CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE NYC 588

DATE: November 30, 1951

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reference Los Angeles letter to New York dated 11/16/51 captioned "CP, USA - BRIEF (PROSECUTION OF ADDITIONAL COMMUNIST FUNCTIONARIES UNDER THE SMITH ACT - HAWAII), INTERNAL SECURITY". The letter enclosed a copy of a Honolulu letter to Los Angeles dated 11/14/51 bearing the same caption and requesting that JOHN LAUTNER or [redacted] be contacted for information concerning the connection of the CP of Hawaii with the CP, USA and District 13, CP, USA.

This is to advise the requested information is set out in New York letter to Bureau bearing the same caption.

It is pointed out that JOHN LAUTNER is expected to be the most important witness in the forthcoming CP trial in New York City and every effort is being made to conceal his identity. Accordingly referenced letters are being removed from the general files in the New York Office and it is requested that the same thing be done by the Los Angeles and Honolulu Offices.

It is further requested that any further communications should refer to informant by his proper symbol number and not by his name.

2 - cc - Honolulu  
2 - cc - Los Angeles

JJMcc:CRG  
66-3901

# 216

JEG 1951

100-16177-80

EX-61

Prof. Name

H.C. 2  
P.R.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Assistant Attorney General James E. McInerney  
Criminal Division

December 17, 1951

Director, FBI

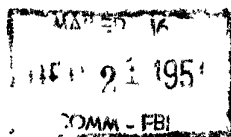
DECLASSIFIED BY 60309 AUC TAM/MLT/CLS  
ON 10-27-2005

J. AN LAUTNER  
POTENTIAL ITN ISS  
SMITH ACT OF 1940

As you are aware [ ] has testified for the Government as a secret witness before the grand jury which indicted 21 Communist leaders recently in the New York City area. To date he has not been identified publicly as a Government witness in those proceedings nor in connection with the coming trials of the Communist leaders for violation of the Smith Act.

The Bureau has recently received a request for information concerning Lautner from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. This Service desires to use Lautner as a Government witness in the case of [ ] in Detroit. Immigration and Naturalization Service has advised that they have a witness who could supply approximately the same testimony as Lautner; however, Lautner is considered to be the better witness in this particular case.

It is suggested, therefore, that the Criminal Division take up this matter directly with INS so that Lautner is not used as a Government witness prior to the above-mentioned trials.



RECORDED - 53

1030 S F

100-16177-81

JAN 11 1952

15. MAR 26 6

REC-3

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SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

E 6

SPECIAL TELEPHONE INQUIRY

Liaison Office

b6

b7C

Time and Date:

11/14/51 - 12 noon

Name of caller:

CLS

Agency:

Phone Extension:

1234 X 291 0

Subject of Inquiry:

John Lautner

Address:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

Date of Birth:

2/14/1899

Place of Birth:

Menzkirchen  
Austria

Occupation:

Remarks:

naturalized - Ely, N.Y. - June, 1929  
CP organizer - Charleston, W. Va.  
expelled from Party 1944

Transmitted to:

Date:

ENCLOSURE

memorandum  
12-19-51  
J. Edgar Hoover

LFD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

100-16177-82  
SAC, New York

Director, FBI

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA - BRIT  
(Prosecution of Additional Communist  
Functionaries Under the Smith Act)  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
Bureau file 100-3-74

G.I.R.-6

Reference is made to the Baltimore teletype of December 7, 1951, and Baltimore letter of December 14, 1951, which sets forth certain background of John Lautner which had not previously been brought to the attention of the FBI.

The New York Office should make certain that AUSA Cohn, SDNY, and the other members of the United States Attorney's staff prosecuting the Smith Act case in New York City are aware of the full background of John Lautner, including his admission that he had perjured himself on at least one occasion.

If it becomes apparent that John Lautner might be utilized as a witness in the Los Angeles or other cases, prior to his appearance in the New York or Baltimore cases, the pertinent background information concerning Lautner should be made available to those field offices for forwarding to the appropriate USA. Although the Departmental attorneys participated in the interview of Lautner in Baltimore when this information was developed, it is possible that each of the United States Attorneys' offices may not be fully apprised.

HOB:ubs

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64 JAN 10 1952

# F.B.I. TELETYPE

4-41a

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC  
TAM/MLT/CLS

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WASHINGTON 7 AND NEW YORK 1 FROM BALTIMORE 12-7-51 9:44 PM

DIRECTOR...ATTENTION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR A. H. BELMONT AND  
SAC NEW YORK

URGENT

*Re: John Lautner*

CP, USA - BRIEF, IS - C. JOHN LAUTNER DURING INTERVIEW IN  
BALTIMORE ON TWELVE FIVE AND TWELVE SIX LAST REVEALED THE  
FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS BACKGROUND WHICH MAY  
NOT BE KNOWN TO NEW YORK OR BUREAU. LAUTNER STATED THAT AT  
THE DIRECTION OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN MAY, NINETEEN THIRTY, HE MARRIED [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] LAUTNER STATED THAT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND WAS IN ON A  
STUDENT VISA AND WAS DESCRIBED TO HIM AS PROMISING MATERIAL  
FOR THE CP. THE PURPOSE OF THE MARRIAGE WAS TO PERMIT [REDACTED]  
TO STAY IN THE U. S. AS AN INDIVIDUAL MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN  
CITIZEN. AT THE TIME OF THE AFOREMENTIONED REQUEST, LAUTNER  
WAS TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THE REQUEST WAS A PARTY DECISION. IT  
WAS MADE CLEAR TO LAUTNER THAT THE MARRIAGE WOULD BE IN FORM  
ONLY AND THAT A DIVORCE COULD BE SECURED LATER. LAUTNER  
STATED THAT IN MAY, NINETEEN THIRTY, HE MARRIED [REDACTED] AT CITY  
HALL, NEW YORK CITY AND THAT THE WITNESSES TO THE CEREMONY  
WERE [REDACTED] THE LATTER BEING A FELLOW  
STUDENT WITH LAUTNER IN A CP TRAINING SCHOOL HELD AT DISTRICT  
HEADQUARTERS OF CP ON UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK CITY. LAUTNER  
STATED THAT [REDACTED] LATER WENT TO DAYTON, OHIO AS ORGANIZER BUT

b6  
b7C

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated  
outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in  
order to protect the Bureau's coding systems.

82

# F.B.I. TELETYPE

4-41a

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PAGE TWO

BELIEVED PRESENTLY OUT OF CP AND WORKING IN NEW YORK AS HEADWAITER. LAUTNER STATED THAT HE LATER LEARNED THAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GONE THROUGH SUCH A CEREMONY FOR THE SAME PURPOSE WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN SAME MANNER AS DID LAUTNER WITH [REDACTED]. LATER IN NINETEEN THIRTY THREE WHILE IN CLEVELAND LAUTNER WAS SERVED WITH DIVORCE PAPERS [REDACTED]. LAUTNER ALSO STATED THAT HE LIVED WITH [REDACTED] FROM NINETEEN THIRTY THREE TO NINETEEN FORTY IN NEW YORK CITY AND WEST VIRGINIA. HE DESCRIBES [REDACTED] AS A FELLOW CP MEMBER. IN WEST VIRGINIA, [REDACTED] WHEN LAUTNER WAS DISTRICT ORGANIZER. HE ALSO DESCRIBES [REDACTED] AS HAVING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN NEW YORK CITY. IN NINETEEN FORTY, ON THEIR WAY UP TO ATTEND A NATIONAL CP CONVENTION IN NEW YORK, THEY STOPPED OVER AT ELKTON, MARYLAND AND FILED AN APPLICATION FOR WEDDING LICENSE, AND LATER, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONVENTION, WENT FROM NEW YORK CITY TO ELKTON AND WERE MARRIED. THE WITNESSES TO THE MARRIAGE WERE ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN AND SAM BROWN, THE LATTER A CP MEMBER AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF NEW YORK COUNTY CP. THE PURPOSE OF THE MARRIAGE WAS TO HELP [REDACTED] SECURE U. S. CITIZENSHIP. AFTER WEDDING CEREMONY [REDACTED] LEFT LAUTNER AND WENT TO CHICAGO AND LAUTNER NEVER LIVED WITH HER AGAIN. IN SEPTEMBER, NINETEEN FORTY ONE, LAUTNER WENT TO [REDACTED] CP ATTORNEY, AND TOLD HIM OF HIS MARRIAGE TO [REDACTED] AND HIS DESIRE TO MARRY [REDACTED] ALSO A CP MEMBER, [REDACTED] ARRANGED FOR THE SECUREMENT OF AN ANNULLMENT BY LAUTNER IN NEW YORK COUNTY SUPREME COURT ON THE GROUND THAT [REDACTED]

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's coding systems.

# F.B.I. TELETYPE

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Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE THREE

HAD VIOLATED A PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT WITH LAUTOER TO BECOME A CATHOLIC. LAUTNER AND [REDACTED] ARRANGED FOR THE LEGAL APPEAR- b6  
ANCE OF [REDACTED] IN THE ANNULMENT ACTION AND ALSO ARRANGED THAT b7C  
THE ACTION WAS NOT CONTESTED. LAUTNER ADMITS THAT HE PERJURED HIMSELF IN THIS PROCEEDING INASMUCH AS THERE WAS NO SUCH PRE-NUPTIAL AGREEMENT AND THAT IN FACT LAUTOER, ALTHOUGH BAPTIZED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH, WAS NO LONGER A MEMBER. LAUTNER, DURING THE QUESTIONING, STATED THAT NEITHER THE FBI NOR THE USA, NY, WAS GIVEN THIS INFORMATION. BALTIMORE WILL PREPARE A DETAILED SUMMARY OF ALL INFORMATION GIVEN BY LAUTNER FOR THE BUREAU AND NEW YORK.

ALDEN

NY BA R 1 NYC PVD

WA BA R 7 WA PFE

RECEIVED: 12-7-51

10:27 PM

TAR

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's coding systems.



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 12/14/51

FROM : BALTIMORE (100-17300)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: BRIEF  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ATTENTION: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR A. H. BELMONT

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP4 ELO/EO*  
ON *8-2-85*

As previously advised, JOHN LAUTNER was interviewed, on a pre-trial basis, at Baltimore, on December 5 and 6 last.

Special Assistant to the Attorney General THOMAS HALL and Mr. HALL's assistant, WILLIAM C. HUNDLEY of the Department, as well as SAs EDWARD G. GOUGH and JAMES V. SULLIVAN participated in the aforementioned interview.

It is to be noted that the United States Attorney, at Baltimore, [redacted] had requested that Mr. HALL make the necessary arrangements for the appearance of Mr. LAUTNER at Baltimore on the above dates and also requested the attendance of the Agents so that he could evaluate the use of Mr. LAUTNER on the forthcoming Smith Act trials at Baltimore. However, on the morning of December 5, the United States Attorney advised that he would not be able to participate in the interview due to his preoccupation with the preparation for and the actual trial of another matter before Justice [redacted] on December 6. [redacted] requested that he be advised of the information given by Mr. LAUTNER. In that regard, [redacted] had also requested that Mr. HALL make arrangements for the appearance of PAUL CROUCH for interview at Baltimore on December 7. On the evening of December 6, [redacted] advised that he would attend the interview on December 7; however, [redacted] did not participate in the interview and for reasons unknown to either Mr. HALL or the Agents. b6 b7C

On December 12, [redacted] of Cleveland was interviewed at Baltimore and present at this interview were Mr. HALL, Mr. HUNDLEY, SA [redacted] of the Cleveland Office and SAs GOUGH and SULLIVAN. b6 b7C

At the present time, two Departmental attorneys are reviewing the summary prosecutive reports of the Smith Act subjects and also reviewing those informant reports on which Bureau clearance has been secured. They have also begun interview on a pre-trial basis of those informants whose reports they have reviewed. According to these attorneys, the results of their interviews are

Encls.  
JVS:ek

cc New York (Encls.) REGISTERED MAIL

100-16177-SE 44 83

L/Dir  
RE: CP, USA - BRIEF  
IS - C

being given to [ ] so that he may make the decision as to whether or not the informants will be used as witnesses in the trials. Present during the aforementioned interviews were those Baltimore Agents who generally handle the informants.

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Enclosed for the information of the Bureau and New York are blind memoranda incorporating, in summary fashion, information given by Mr. LAUTNER. The memoranda also include some information given by the New York Office to Baltimore. The memoranda does not include, in detail, all of the developments of various subject matter given by LAUTNER. That information is already in the possession of both the United States Attorney, Baltimore, and the United States Attorney, New York, in the form of detailed "Witness Sheets" comprising 59 pages of questions and answers that was made available to the United States Attorneys by the Department. According to Mr. HALL, these "Witness Sheets" were drawn up at the time LAUTNER was questioned by the Department in connection with the McCarran hearings.

Copies of the enclosed memoranda are being given to the United States Attorney at Baltimore and Mr. HALL and one copy is being retained in the bulky exhibit of the captioned Baltimore file.

Enclosed also for New York is the material previously furnished Baltimore by New York letter captioned "CP, USA - BRIEF, INTERNAL SECURITY - C" dated 11/30/51.

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BACKGROUND

JOHN LAUTNER, JR. was born in Hungary, January 1, 1902. His father was JOHN LAUTNER and his mother MARY BALOGH LAUTNER. He has three brothers, namely FRANK, LEONARD and MICHAEL, and two sisters, LILLIAN CLARK and ISABELLE SCHUNN. All of these individuals are presently living in Youngstown, Ohio with the exception of the father who died in the 1930's. None of the family was a member of the Communist Party or in sympathy with the Communist Party.

When LAUTNER was sixteen months of age, his family came to the United States on the "SS Kaiser Wilhelm" from Bremen, Germany, arrived at New York City, and proceeded immediately to Manassa, Pennsylvania where they resided until LAUTNER was approximately 4½ years of age, when the family moved to Freeland, Pennsylvania where LAUTNER's father worked as a foreman in the mines. After a short residence the family moved to New York City until LAUTNER was approximately 6 years of age when the whole family returned to Hungary. The reason for the return to Hungary was because of the financial straits of the family and the desire of the parents to visit their homeland.

Due in part to the intervention of World War I LAUTNER did not return with his family to the United States until July, 1920. While in Hungary LAUTNER attended public grammar school and high school and a year and a half at a teachers college in Munkacs. In July, 1920 LAUTNER and his family returned to the United States on the "SS Rotterdam" from Holland and proceeded to Youngstown, Ohio.

For a period of about a year and a half, beginning September, 1920, LAUTNER worked in the Republic Iron and Steel Company in the tube mill. For a short period of time he went to Cleveland where he worked as a paperhanger and helper, and then to Arizona for a few months, but returned to Youngstown in 1922. In that city he worked with his father on construction work as a bricklayer for about six years, after which he went to Cleveland, and then in 1928 came to New York City, joining Local #34 of the Bricklayers Union in New York City. He was employed as a bricklayer by the Tishman Realty Company, the Colon Construction Company and the Knickerbocker Ice Company. In 1929, since there was no construction work available, he turned his union card into the union.

While in Youngstown LAUTNER, on 2/16/23, filed a

Declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States at the Court of Common Pleas, Youngstown, Ohio. The Declaration of Intention bears Number 10960. On 5/27/26 he was issued a Petition for Naturalization bearing Number 6752 and a Certificate of Naturalization bearing Number 2261454. The records of the Court of Common Pleas at Youngstown, Ohio indicate that LAUTNER filed his Petition and Declaration, etc. under the name of JOHN LAUTNER, JR., giving as his address 464 West Ravenwood Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio. His occupation is given as bricklayer and his birth date is noted as 1/1/02, Hungary. It is noted that he emigrated from Rotterdam, Holland, July 2, 1920 and arrived in New York City July 14, 1920. His Certificate of Arrival bears Number 96509 under the name of JOHN LAUTNER, JR. The witnesses to his Citizenship Declaration are MARIA LAUTNER, housewife, and MIKE LAUTNER, bricklayer, both having the same address as JOHN LAUTNER, JR.

#### COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITIES

LAUTNER advised he joined the Communist Party, USA at the end of 1929. He stated he met a group of Hungarians at the Hungarian Community Center, 350 East 81st Street, NYC. One of the members of the group was [redacted] whose real name was [redacted] and who was [redacted] at the Community Center. This individual sponsored LAUTNER for membership in the Communist Party. LAUTNER states that [redacted] fought with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spain and was later expelled from the Communist Party for being a Trotskyite.

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LAUTNER states that in 1929, after joining the Party, he was assigned to the Yorkville Party Unit in New York City with headquarters at 350 East 81st Street. In January, February, March, April and May of 1930 he attended a training school for Communist Party members of Hungarian descent. The training school was held on Union Square, New York City in the building that housed both the District Headquarters of the Party and the "Daily Worker". LAUTNER stated that he was recommended to the school by [redacted] of the Hungarian National Bureau of the Communist Party.

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LAUTNER stated that the Hungarian National Bureau was part of the Language Department which in turn was a sub-division of the National Committee of the Communist Party. LAUTNER stated that the Language Department had supervision over foreign language groups. In this school, J. PETERS was instructor of Political Economy. PETERS at that time was

Manager of the "Daily Worker". JAMES LUSTIG, Editor of the Hungarian Communist Party newspaper, gave instructions on Leninism. [ ] Communist Party functionary active in the Transport Workers Union, was instructor in the program of the Communist Internationale. [ ] was instructor in Dialectical Materialism. [ ] lectured in Communist Work Among Hungarian Communities. LOUIS WEINSTOCK lectured on the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. [ ] lectured on the Communist Manifesto. [ ] lectured on the Paris Commune. [ ] lectured on IWO Administration. [ ] lectured on the Communist Party Organization.

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LAUTNER identifies Dr. JOHN GYETVAI as Editor of the "Magyar Jovo" and at present time Hungarian Ambassador to Turkey. The purpose of the training school was to prepare prospective functionaries for the Communist Party. LAUTNER defines a functionary as a member who is elected or appointed to a specific position of responsibility in the Party organization on any level. At the training school the students' expenses were paid for and they were given a daily allowance for food and books and any of the students who came from out of town had their rent paid by the Party. The school was subsidized by the Hungarian National Bureau of the Communist Party. About fifteen individuals attended this school and LAUTNER finished with the highest grades.

It is to be noted that LOUIS BEBRITS, presently Hungarian Cabinet Member of Government - Minister of Transportation; JAMES LUSTIG who in 1949 was international representative of United Electrical Workers; LOUIS WEINSTOCK, one of the Communist Party functionaries recently indicted in New York; [ ] who went underground in the Communist Party using the name of [ ] JOHN GYETVAI, presently Hungarian Minister to Turkey; ISADORE BEGUN, one of CP functionaries recently indicted in New York City; [ ] who in 1949 was [ ] of the All-Slav Congress; and [ ] all were members of the Yorkville Unit of the Communist Party with LAUTNER when he joined the Party in 1929. [ ]

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In May of 1930 while he was still in attendance at the aforementioned school, LAUTNER was called in by [ ] and told that a Party decision had been made and that he was to marry a girl who had come into the United States from Hungary on a student visa. The girl was described as

promising material for the Communist Party. LAUTNER was told that he could get a divorce later. As a consequence LAUTNER married [redacted] at City Hall, New York City in May, 1930. One witness to the ceremony was [redacted] a fellow student of LAUTNER at the aforementioned school and who later went to Dayton, Ohio as Communist Party organizer and who is presently believed to be out of the Party and employed in New York City as a headwaiter. Another witness was [redacted] of the IWO in NYC in 1930, a sister of [redacted]

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LAUTNER states that sometime in 1933 when he was residing in Cleveland, he was served with divorce papers and so far as he knows he is divorced from [redacted]. LAUTNER claims not to have lived with [redacted] and in fact, not to have seen her but once since their marriage. On the single occasion that LAUTNER saw her, he did not speak to her and viewed her at a distance. LAUTNER states that he learned later that he was to have gone through such a marriage ceremony with the [redacted] who had also come into the country on a student visa and that [redacted] had, in fact, married [redacted] under the same circumstances as LAUTNER had married [redacted]

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In the spring of 1930 LAUTNER was elected delegate to a Section Convention of the Communist Party in Harlem, New York City. LAUTNER states at that time the Organizational Secretary of District #2, New York was JOHN WILLIAMSON.

In May of 1930 [redacted] assigned LAUTNER as District Secretary of the Hungarian Bureau of the Communist Party in Detroit. Detroit had a large Hungarian population numbering approximately twenty thousand and they resided, for the most part, in the automobile industrial areas. LAUTNER's assignment was to build up the influence of the CP among the Hungarians in Detroit and to infiltrate into Hungarian social, political, church and fraternal organizations. Generally, his job was to educate and organize into a closer membership the Hungarian members and to bring them into the activities of the CP in the District of Detroit.

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LAUTNER stated that JACK STACHEL was the CP leader in Detroit and that PHIL BART was Organizational Secretary under STACHEL. LAUTNER stated that he was responsible to the District leaders at Detroit as well as the Hungarian Bureau of the CP at New York. While in Detroit he was Secretary of the District Control Commission of the Detroit District of the CP. LAUTNER

stated that the Head of the National Control Commission of the CP in New York at that time was CHARLES DIRBA. At Detroit WILLIAM NOWELL was Educational Director and [redacted] in the district organization.

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Also, while in Detroit, LAUTNER worked part-time at the Amtorg Trading Corporation Branch Office handling the switchboard.

LAUTNER describes STACHEL as being one of a triumvirate who, with BROWDER and FOSTER, ruled the CP from 1928 to 1930.

While in Detroit LAUTNER was a CP lecturer and taught Marxism and Leninism, using his notes and material gathered from the aforementioned Hungarian school.

LAUTNER recalled that the Verhovy Aid Society of Detroit was one of the Hungarian organizations that he attempted to infiltrate. He stated that they were successful in converting many of the individuals to Communism and in fact, controlled one of the lodges. He also recalled that the Bridgeport Aid Society and the Reformers Church of Detroit were other organizations that he attempted to infiltrate with only moderate success. At Detroit he sat in as an invitee at the District Committee meetings and gave reports of his activities. LAUTNER stated that one of his biggest jobs was to build up CP influence among Hungarian auto workers in Detroit.

In the early spring of 1931 [redacted] later known as [redacted] of the Organizational Department of the National Committee of the CP in New York, came to Detroit and informed LAUTNER that he was assigned by the Hungarian Bureau to go to Canada to relieve the Editor of the Canadian paper (the Hungarian Worker) and to become the National Bureau Secretary of the Canadian Hungarian National Bureau of the Canadian Communist Party. LAUTNER relieved [redacted]

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LAUTNER went to New York and then went with [redacted] to Buffalo and through Niagara Falls into Canada. When he got to Hamilton, Ontario, he was introduced to the Canadian Communists by [redacted] LAUTNER states that the American Communist Party had direct supervision over the Canadian Communist Party at that time. He states that the Canadians were not consulted in his appointment. LAUTNER states that he remained in Canada for approximately eleven months and during

this period BETTY GANNETT was also there as the Communist Internationale Youth Representative in Canada.

In Canada LAUTNER used the alias of JOHN KOVACS. He did this at the suggestion of [redacted] and was told that it was the practice of the Party to do it and that if he used his correct name, he might have trouble with United States authorities on his return. LAUTNER states that [redacted] gave him the name to use and introduced him to the Canadian Communists under the alias.

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LAUTNER states that the Hungarian name of the paper was "Munkas" and that it was ostensibly a labor newspaper and that his articles and work in this paper were based upon material set out in the "Canadian Worker" and the "Daily Worker" of New York. LAUTNER stated that the Canadian Party leaders whom he consulted in connection with his duties were [redacted] General Secretary of the Canadian CP and [redacted]

[redacted] LAUTNER states that he and [redacted] organized a Hungarian YCL school in Toronto and that BETTY GANNETT taught at this school.

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In the spring of 1932 LAUTNER asked the National Hungarian Bureau of the CP in New York to relieve him from his assignment and he was advised by [redacted] that he was to wind up his business and return to the United States. In speaking of his assignment in Canada LAUTNER stated that the Hungarian population which numbered from four to ten thousand, was spread over the following cities: Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Alberta, Vancouver and parts of Nova Scotia. The purpose of LAUTNER's mission was the same as in Detroit, namely, to spread Communist Party theory among the Hungarians and to get the Hungarians to work in the CP of the various districts in Canada. As a measure of his success, LAUTNER stated that TIM BUCK wanted him to go to the Lenin School and then to come back and become a Canadian and work with BUCK in Canada.

In the spring of 1932, on his return from New York, LAUTNER was assigned by [redacted] to Cleveland to become District Secretary of the Hungarian Bureau of the CP in Cleveland and to work as editor on one of the Hungarian papers there. LAUTNER was also given the job to report back to the National Hungarian Bureau of the CP concerning a factional dispute among the Hungarians in Cleveland. LAUTNER advised

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that while the National Hungarian Bureau was located in New York, its paper was published in Cleveland. Individual CP Hungarian members in Cleveland wanted the Bureau to make its headquarters in Cleveland. This position was disputed by the leading Hungarian functionaries in New York. LAUTNER stated that the situation was finally resolved by BROWDER who removed from the Hungarian Bureau most of the disputants including [redacted]

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At Cleveland a national training school was organized for Hungarian Communists from all over the United States. One branch was in New York City and one in Cleveland. LAUTNER formed the branch in Cleveland in the summer of 1932 and the school lasted for eight weeks. LAUTNER was director of the school, oversaw its operations and evaluated the people in attendance. LAUTNER's work in this regard was at the instruction of [redacted] LAUTNER asked for a release from Cleveland, expressing his dislike over functional fights among the Hungarian CP members in Cleveland, and he left Cleveland in the summer of 1932.

He was transferred from Cleveland to the New York City Party and later was assigned to the Language Bureau of the New York District. LAUTNER stated that when he first returned from Cleveland he worked with his father who at that time was residing with the rest of the family in Ridgewood, New Jersey. LAUTNER's assignment to the Language Bureau of the New York District of the CP was made by [redacted] of the CP, District #2.

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LAUTNER describes his activities at this period as being a trouble shooter among foreign groups in New York, especially among the German population who were aroused over HITLER's handling of the Communists. LAUTNER also worked among the Latin American groups. He states that the dominating group in the CP were the Cubans and that this time also marked the beginning of a period wherein the Puerto Ricans challenged the domination of the Cubans in the CP Latin American affairs. In speaking of this period LAUTNER stated that the New York CP aided in a financial way the Cuban and Puerto Rican CP's and sent individuals known as [redacted] for colonial purposes to Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

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LAUTNER also stated that during this period there was a general assessment on all of the Party members in the United States to aid Communist Parties in other countries. He stated that in the early 1930's when they were on a weekly dues paying

system, they had a monthly assessment of Internationale dues equal to a week's dues. LAUTNER states that in the middle 1930's, when the Party went on a monthly dues paying system, they also had a quarterly assessment of Internationale dues equal to a month's dues and that this continued until the Communist Party formally disaffiliated with the Communist Internationale in 1941. LAUTNER states that the assessment was known as the Internationale assessment and that it was generally understood in the Party that this money was in fulfillment of the Internationale obligations of the Party and was spent at the discretion of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, USA.

In the latter part of 1933 or the early part of 1934, LAUTNER was appointed by [ ] as a full-time Section Organizer to a new section of the Party known as Section 18. This section of the Party was located on the west side of New York City with territorial boundaries from 59th to 110th Street, from Central Park west to the Hudson River. LAUTNER relates that after his appointment by [ ] he called a meeting of West Side Communists and informed them that he was Section Organizer by orders of the District Committee of the CP. As Section Organizer LAUTNER had contact with CHARLES KRUMBEIN, District Organizer of the CP and member of the National Committee; ISRAEL AMTER; ALEX BITTLEMAN; ROSE WORTIS; ROBERT MINOR; ROY HUDSON and EARL BROWDER, all members of the National Committee of the Communist Party.

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LAUTNER states that Section 18 was made up, for the most part, of professional and middle-class Jewish people and that in this period new members classes were held and the classes were addressed by J. PETERS who at that time was working out of a speakers bureau of the CP, and also by VICTOR JEROME, one of the Editors of "The Communist".

During this period and in the fall of 1935 a friend of LAUTNER by the name of [ ] came back from the Lenin School in Moscow. Both LAUTNER and [ ] visited AL LANNON who at that time resided in Brooklyn, New York. They went to Jacob Reiss Park in Brooklyn and LAUTNER states that [ ] and LANNON talked about their experiences in the Lenin School in Moscow. LAUTNER could recall little of the conversation but states that both [ ] and LANNON spoke of an excellent teacher at the Lenin School, a Hungarian by the name of [ ]. LAUTNER describes LANNON as being a close confidant of ROY [ ]

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HUDSON, specializing in seamen and maritime union problems. LAUTNER had little contact with LANNON, but noted that he saw LANNON at the 1945 National Convention of the CP where LANNON attended as head of the Maryland delegation of the CP.

In this period LAUTNER states that various members of the National Committee of the Communist Party came to the Section Organizers meetings that he attended and he also recalled that GERHARDT EISLER who at that time was known under the name of EDWARDS, also attended these meetings. LAUTNER stated that EISLER was not a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party nor a Section Organizer of the CP, but was definitely in attendance at the meetings. LAUTNER states that the general opinion among the members was that EISLER was a representative of the Communist Internationale to the United States.

LAUTNER recalled that in the spring of 1935 at a meeting held on Second Avenue in New York City, which meeting was dedicated to the problems concerning the Transport Workers Union, he saw EISLER in attendance and recalled that EISLER took issue with [redacted]

[redacted] He recalled that the meeting was held at Stuyvesant Hall and that the meeting was called at the instance of either CHARLES KRUMBEIN or [redacted]. He recalled that EISLER's exception to the report of [redacted] was very unusual inasmuch as EISLER had no formal position in the Party and that in any case, the report of such a functionary as [redacted] was generally accepted without much discussion. LAUTNER stated that EISLER spoke with apparent authority and that no one at the meeting took issue with him.

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LAUTNER also recalled that shortly after this meeting, in the spring of 1935, he saw EISLER at a Section Organizers meeting also attended by District CP leaders, held at 14th Street, New York City. The purpose of this meeting was a circulation campaign concerning the "Daily Worker". At this meeting EISLER, known under the name of EDWARDS, addressed the meeting and stated that the "Daily Worker" must reflect the activities of the Communist Party and the problems of the working class in the most vivid and lively fashion so that the "Daily Worker" would become the accepted voice of the American working class.

LAUTNER also recalled that in the summer of 1935 he met EISLER at a meeting of the Section Organizers, New York

State District leaders, etc., held at Camp Unity, New York, which is located approximately 100 miles outside of NYC. This meeting was called to hear a report by J. PETERS on Methods and Devices of Concentration in the National Guard. About this time, [redacted] who directed LAUTNER to attend the meeting, identified EDWARDS as the Communist Internationale representative. The last time that LAUTNER can recall EISLER was when he saw him in 1949 shortly after he was released from Ellis Island. At this time LAUTNER saw EISLER in the CP Headquarters, 35 East 12th Street, NYC. On this occasion he knew EISLER under his true name and recalled that EISLER attended and spoke at a banquet in honor of the eleven National Leaders of the CP in NY.

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In 1936 LAUTNER was sent by JACK STACHEL who at that time was Executive Secretary of the Communist Party, USA, to West Virginia to be District Organizer. LAUTNER's appointment was at the direction of the National Committee of the CP. LAUTNER notes that he had been previously approached by [redacted] to go to Norfolk as District Organizer there. On his appointment to West Virginia, LAUTNER was given various addresses in Fairmount and Charlestown, but decided to make his headquarters in Charlestown. He was given specific instructions to build a Communist Party around the mining and chemical workers in West Virginia.

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Shortly after his arrival he called his first conference, introduced himself and became the District Organizer without the pretense of any formality of election. He served in this capacity from the spring of 1936 until the end of 1940. LAUTNER notes that one of his instructions before going to West Virginia was to build up CP membership in the IWO.

LAUTNER states that he had met [redacted] in New York City in 1933 and that at that time she was a functionary [redacted] LAUTNER stated that he lived with [redacted] in NYC and that on his assignment to West Virginia, she was also assigned to that territory by JACK STACHEL in the position of Organizational Secretary. LAUTNER stated that in West Virginia he continued to live with [redacted] until 1940 when [redacted] who was not a citizen of the United States, but was apprehensive of the possibilities of being deported because of her CP activities, asked LAUTNER to go through a marriage ceremony with her in order to expedite her obtaining of U.S. citizenship. LAUTNER states that on the way up to New York City in 1940 to attend the National Convention of the CP, he and [redacted] applied for a marriage license in

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Maryland and then continued up to the convention. After the convention he and [ ] together with ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN and SAM BROWN, the latter being a CP member and Executive Secretary of the New York County Section of the CP, returned to Elkton, Maryland, where LAUTNER and [ ] were married. The witnesses to the ceremony were ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN and SAM BROWN. FLYNN at that time was a member of the National Committee of the CP. LAUTNER advised that FLYNN opposed his marriage to [ ] on the grounds that it was not necessary. LAUTNER stated that he advised FLYNN of the real purpose of the marriage and that FLYNN thereafter did not oppose his marriage.

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After the marriage they both returned to New York and [ ] and LAUTNER went back to West Virginia. LAUTNER states that he never lived with [ ] again from that time on although he always considered her a good friend. He recalled that [ ] assignment [ ] and that she applied for and received U.S. citizenship in Chicago.

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Shortly after this marriage in July or August, 1940, at Elkton, Maryland, LAUTNER, in the early part of 1941 went to [ ] who was the Communist Party attorney in New York and told him that he desired to marry [ ] who also was a CP member. LAUTNER states that he told [ ] of his marriage to [ ] and that [ ] told LAUTNER that he could get an annulment, on the grounds that [ ] violated a pre-nuptial contract whereby she had agreed to become a member of the Catholic faith and that such grounds would be valid in New York for an annulment. LAUTNER states that [ ] was the one who definitely suggested the fraudulent grounds and that in pursuance thereto LAUTNER did secure an annulment in the Supreme Court of New York County and at a hearing before the judge, he deliberately lied under oath and testified to the false contract grounds as given him by [ ] LAUTNER states that [ ] was agreeable to the arrangement and put in an appearance through an attorney but otherwise did not contest the action. LAUTNER was of the opinion that the annulment was secured in September, 1941 in the Supreme Court of New York County.

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Before LAUTNER arrived in West Virginia and while still in New York, he was given a code by J. PETERS whom LAUTNER described as a member of the National Organizational Department of the Communist Party, USA. The code consisted of an arrangement whereby PETERS gave LAUTNER a copy of a

book, a similar copy of which was retained by PETERS. PETERS instructed LAUTNER in the use of a series of numbers, the first of which referred to the page of the book, the second to a line on the page and the third to spaces over on that line. At this point a word would begin and that letter would be the first letter in the construction of the word. Similarly, the second letter would be arrived at by referring to a number of a line and numbers of spaces on the line. This was repeated until an entire word was coded and the message was completed. PETERS instructed LAUTNER to use the code for confidential or secret communications with the National Headquarters of the CP but LAUTNER states that he had no use for the code and no need to communicate secretly with the leadership in New York inasmuch as he made frequent trips to NYC and on those occasions discussed his confidential matters with the leadership. LAUTNER states that PETERS told him that the other CP District leaders also had such codes.

From 1936 to 1942 LAUTNER states that he attended many plenums of the CP, USA held at NYC in conjunction with the various conventions of the Party. He stated that the plenums consisted of a joint meeting of the National Committee of the CP and various District Organizers. He stated that the plenums usually were held in the spring and the fall of each year. LAUTNER recalled PHIL FRANKFELD as being in attendance at these plenums as District Organizer from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. He also recalls [redacted] and ALBERT BLUMBERG as being in attendance as District Organizers from Maryland. b6 b7C

As District Organizer in West Virginia he was given a subsidy of \$50.00 a month, a car, office supplies and literature by the National CP. He distributed among the Party members in West Virginia copies of the following literature:

- Foundations of Leninism
- Problems of Leninism
- United Front by DIMITROFF
- Leftwing Communism
- Imperialism
- Strategy and Tactics
- State and Revolution.

LAUTNER recalled that during his stay in West Virginia the subject of the Hitler-Stalin Pact came up. This pact in the light of the united front program as enunciated by

DIMITROFF was explained as a tactical maneuver on the part of the Soviet Union and not part of the Communist long range strategy.

As a result of his work in West Virginia he was given a favorable evaluation by JAMES FORD, member of the National Committee of the CP, USA and recommended and later elected as a member of the Presiding Committee of the 1940 National Convention of the CP. He stated that the fact of this election was published in the "Daily Worker" in the issue of May 31, 1940. LAUTNER stated that the Presiding Committee was made up of BROWDER, FOSTER and ROY HUDSON. LAUTNER recalled BROWDER coming into the Committee meeting and presenting to the Committee the slate of the new National Committee, which slate was endorsed without question by all members.

Also, as a result of his work in West Virginia, he was notified by ROY HUDSON, who at that time was Organizational Secretary of the CP and performing the duties of EARL BROWDER, who at that time was in jail, that he was to attend a National Training School of the Communist Party from January or February to May, 1941. LAUTNER described this training school as being the highest training school of the CP and the successor to the Lenin School in Moscow. LAUTNER stated that because of the war, the Hitler-Stalin Pact and the general political situation, the Party had ceased to send students to the Lenin School at Moscow and had started a CP Training School in New York City known as the National Training School. LAUTNER attended the second session of the school. The school lasted about three and a half months and the students worked approximately sixteen hours a day. There were full-time morning, afternoon and evening sessions. LAUTNER recalled the following students in attendance:

ANDREW ONDA, CP District Organizer of Cleveland, Ohio;  
DAVID McELVEY-WHITE, leader of the Veterans of the  
Abraham Lincoln Brigade and son of former Governor  
WHITE of Ohio:

[redacted] from New Orleans  
[redacted]  
[redacted] of Richmond, Virginia;  
[redacted] of  
the Chicago District:

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LAUTNER recalled the following instructors:

[redacted] member of the National Training School Commission who lectured on Marxism-Leninism. His source material was the Selected and Collective Works of LENIN, Imperialism, STALIN's Foundations of Leninism and STALIN's Problems of Leninism.

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[redacted] of the National Training School who lectured on Political Economy and whose source material was Das Kapital.

[redacted] of the CP of Canada who lectured on The History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. [redacted] used the textbook, History of CP, SU (B). [redacted] also used various references to the works of LENIN.

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JACK JOHNSTONE, whose topic was Trade Unions and the CP. JOHNSTONE's remarks dealt with the History and Development of Trade Unions; CP Influence in Trade Unions; CP Concentration in Industries and generally, the experience of JOHNSTONE, a leading CP trade functionary.

JAMES FORD, member of the National Committee of CP who spoke on the Negro Question. FORD's remarks dealt with the CP policy of self determination among the Negroes, the problems of building the CP in the Negro populations of the United States. FORD characterized the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as a reformist movement representing the bourgeoisie. FORD approved the National Negro Congress in its competition with the NAACP.

[redacted] spoke on LENIN's Imperialism. His talk dealt with the final stages of monopoly capitalism and the colonial aspects of monopoly capitalism and applied those doctrines to the United States which was characterized as an imperialist monopolistic nation.

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[redacted] gave a history of the American labor movement. [redacted] in developing the history of this movement, characterized it as not representing progressivism. He stated that the American labor movement was economic conscious but not social conscious.

JOHN WILLIAMSON, member of the National Board and



National Committee of the CP, who spoke on the practical problems of the CP. WILLIAMSON's remarks dealt mainly with the building of the Party in concentration districts. It was WILLIAMSON's theory that in every section of the country there was one or more key or influential unions or industries, but many local unions or sub-divisions of industry. WILLIAMSON claimed that if the Party could gain control of the key union or key industry, the rest of the locals and sub-divisions of industry would follow and that CP influence would be overwhelming. WILLIAMSON therefore urged that the Party be built and that the efforts be concentrated in the important segments of the unions and industry in each section of the country.

LAUTNER recalled that [redacted] and at that time in an illegal or underground capacity, lectured to the school on the topic of China. [redacted] identified the Chinese Communists as being true Marxists and generally followed the CP line in his criticism of the Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek.

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LAUTNER also recalled that a young scientist whose first name was [redacted] but whose last name remains unknown, from Columbia University, who was at that time engaged in atomic research at the General Electric Laboratory in Schenectady, New York, spoke to the class on the topic of general science. In his talk, this individual spoke of DARWIN's Evolution, EINSTEIN's Relativity, Materialistic Conception of the Beginnings of Creation, and a general course on science. LAUTNER recalled that the remarks of the scientist concerned Dialectical Materialism as applied to nature rather than to society.

At the conclusion of this National School LAUTNER was assigned by the National Committee of the CP as National Secretary of the Hungarian Bureau, which position he retained until November, 1942. About this same period he was appointed as a member of the National Language Department or Commission of the CP and later, in the spring of 1942 he was appointed National Secretary of the Hungarian Section of IWO. The latter appointment was by the National Committee of the CP. He was informed of the latter appointment by [redacted] of the National Language Department or Commission of the CP. LAUTNER retained these aforementioned positions until inducted into the

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United States Army in November, 1942. LAUTNER was inducted at New York City on November 9, 1942.

LAUTNER's armed service records, maintained at AGO, St. Louis, Missouri, reflect that he has Army Serial Number 32622865. It is noted that his civilian occupation is given as "Executive Secretary for insurance organization". His military occupation is given as "Translator". His foreign service is given as "2 years, 10 days". His campaigns are given as "Naples and Foggia". His discharge is dated June 20, 1945 at Fort Dix, New Jersey. His highest rank held was Technician, Fourth Grade. While in the Army LAUTNER relates he received personal letters from ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, but otherwise was out of touch with CP activities.

In relating his activities in the United States Army, LAUTNER advised that in the summer of 1943, he was assigned to the Psychological Warfare Branch of the United States Army at Bari and Rome, Italy, as well as Algiers. He recalled that at Algiers, his job was to establish a monitoring system of checking on Hungarian and Czechoslovakian broadcasts. He would intercept the broadcast, translate it and put it in report form. Later at Bari, he performed the same duties. He recalled that at Bari, he was approached by the British Branch of the Psychological Warfare and worked with them with the permission of the United States Army. He also worked on a broadcast to Hungary, which broadcast carried allied propaganda, factual news, editorials, etc. He recalled that he helped to prepare thousands of leaflets which were supplied to the Allied Air Force who would drop the leaflets into Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The leaflets were called "Allied Air Force News". While performing these general duties at Bari, LAUTNER recalled that he met [redacted] who was assigned to the British Monitoring System at Algiers and who was formerly Spanish Civil War veteran who had been picked up by the British and placed in the British Army. LAUTNER stated that [redacted] knew of LAUTNER's Communist Party affiliations and that they worked together in their monitoring duties. In Bari, LAUTNER stated that there were many Yugoslav partisans who were trained and sent back to Yugoslavia as part of the Liberation Army. It was one of LAUTNER's duties to develop among this group, a news service. That is, a group that could be relied upon when they returned to Yugoslavia to report Allied news and in turn report back to the Allies, activities in Yugoslavia. As will be stated later in this memorandum, it was LAUTNER's association with [redacted] that supplied a basis of suspicion on the part of the Communist Party, USA of LAUTNER himself. b6 b7C

After his discharge from the United States Army, LAUTNER went up to the Communist Party Office in New York and he recalled they were making preparations in relation to a State Convention of the Party. LAUTNER stated that he spoke to JOHN WILLIAMSON who at that time was Secretary of the National Committee of the Communist Political Association. WILLIAMSON told LAUTNER that he would see him in a few days. Later he met WILLIAMSON again and on this occasion, JACK STACHEL and EUGENE DENNIS were present. DENNIS asked LAUTNER to go to Cleveland, Ohio as City Organizer for Tioga County. LAUTNER stated that he turned this offer down and gave as his reason the fact that he was out of New York City for such a long period of time, and that he would like to stay in New York City and settle down there. LAUTNER stated that DENNIS did not insist on LAUTNER taking the job and in fact asked him for his preference in respect to work in the Party. LAUTNER stated that he told DENNIS and the others that he desired to return to

Hungarian work under the "National Hungarian Bureau of the Communist Party". LAUTNER was told to get in touch with [REDACTED] and when he did, he received an offer and accepted the job as Secretary of the Hungarian Bureau. LAUTNER also recalled that he was assigned to the Hungarian - American Democratic Council which he described as the Communist Party front organization whose purpose was to counteract the influence that the Hungarian Federation had at that time. LAUTNER identified the Federation as being anti-Communist. He remained in these positions until the end of 1945. He recalled that at about the time that he was seeing WILLIAMSON, DENNIS and STACHEL, the State and National Conventions of the Communist Political Association were being held. He recalled that ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, and JOHN WILLIAMSON told him of the draft resolution that had been prepared by the National Committee of the Communist Political Association, of the DUCLOS letter and the FOSTER letter. They told him to attend both the State and National Conventions. LAUTNER recalled that he did attend the State Convention of the Communist Political Association in New York and that he sat on the stage with GILBERT GREEN who at that time was State Chairman of the Communist Political Association. LAUTNER stated that at this State Convention, Party leaders agreed with the draft resolution and condemned the actions of BROWDER. He recalls that the convention was held at the Manhattan Center, 34th Street and 8th Avenue, New York City, and that present at the convention were GILBERT GREEN, State Chairman, WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, ROBERT MINOR, RAY HUDSON, CHARLES KRUMBEIN, BENJAMIN DAVIS, all of whom were members of the National Committee of the Communist Political Association. LAUTNER stated that the line taken by the people present at the State Convention followed the pre-convention discussion articles set out in the "Daily Worker" issues of June and July, 1945. LAUTNER also recalled that at the State Convention delegates were elected to the National Convention and that the State Convention stood adjourned subject to a recall after the holding of the National Convention. LAUTNER recalled that GILBERT GREEN, who acted as Chairman of the Convention, gave the principal address and that his address was reported in the "Daily Worker", as well as the resolution adopted by the State Convention.

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After the State Convention, LAUTNER visited his family in Youngstown, Ohio for a period of approximately ten days and then came back to New York and attended the National Convention. He was given tickets for the National Convention by JOHN WILLIAMSON and was present as a "Fraternal Delegate". At the National Convention, he saw all the principal leaders of the National Communist Political Association, including FOSTER, DENNIS, SCHENCK RMAN, POTASH, WILLIAMSON, LANNON, and EARL BROWDER. He stated that

the National Convention was completely in the control of the Communist Political Association and POTASH acted as Chairman. The main talks were given by ECSTER and DENNIS and the main discussion dealt with the DUCLOS article, the ECSTER letter and the draft resolution. At this convention LAUTNER was assigned to the Veterans Committee which was headed by ROBERT THOMPSON. The line discussed at these committee meetings was the endeavor of the Communist Party to penetrate into the American Legion. LAUTNER stated that he as well as [redacted] the latter who was [redacted] from St. Louis, Missouri, disagreed with this line and tried to urge a formation by the Communist Party of their own veteran organization. b6 b7C

At the National Convention, in addition to the dissolution of the Communist Political Association and the formation of the Communist Party, LAUTNER can recall that there was much self criticism by the leaders who took the position that they had blindly followed EARL BROWDER in his policies and condemned themselves as being part of an organization that had deserted Marxism - Leninism. LAUTNER can state that the final resolution of the Convention condemned BROWDER's revisionism. LAUTNER can identify the speeches of the National Leaders given at the convention as reported in the "Political Affairs" issues of July, August and September, 1945. LAUTNER recalled that he did not attend the Second Session of the State Convention called after the holding of the National Convention, but did recall that the State Communist Political Association had been instructed to have one State Convention made up of two sessions, one Session to be held before the National Convention and one Session to be held after the National Convention. The purpose of the latter Session being to reconstitute the Communist Party and carry out the mandate of the National Convention. b6 b7C

In 1945, while with the Hungarian Bureau, he had a talk with [redacted] who at that time was a member of the Secretariat of the New York State Communist Party and he was assigned to build up among the building trades, an industrial section of the Communist Party. This assignment was given at either the latter part of 1945 or the early part of 1946, and LAUTNER organized out of the Communist Political Association membership all of the building trade, Unionists who had been absorbed in clubs, etc. into Industrial Branches. b6 b7C

In the early part of 1947, LAUTNER was assigned as Section Organizer to a Section of New York in the lower West side of Manhattan known as Chelsea. LAUTNER explained that in 1947, the Party had reorganized Manhattan into regions and one of the regions known as Region #1 was also known as Chelsea. Later in 1947, LAUTNER consulted with WILLIAM NORMAN at that time Executive Secretary of the State Communist Party and ROBERT THOMPSON and was assigned as a full time functionary to the New York State Review Commission of the Communist Party. LAUTNER states that the Review

Commission was a successor to the old Control Commission and it was principally a body of people who reviewed disciplinary cases that were presented in the lower organizations of the Party. In this period, the main effort was in the direction of the splinter group to ferret out the various Browderites who were attacking the leadership of the Party and also those groups who were attacking the leadership of the Party as being Pro-Browder.

During this period, 1945 to 1947, LAUTNER stated that as an aftermath of the reconstitution of the Communist Party, emphasis was placed on Marxist - Leninist education. He recalled that the speeches of the leaders of the Party at the National Convention emphasized this need. He recalled that the State Organization of the Communist Party expressed its reaction to the need of Marxist education in an article by WILLIAM WEINSTONE in "Political Affairs". WEINSTONE at that time was State Educational Director. LAUTNER also recalled that BETTY GARNETT, member of the National Committee, wrote a pamphlet also expressing this need and the title of the pamphlet was "The Communist Party and You". LAUTNER recalled that National outlines of education were prepared by the National Educational Commission of the Communist Party and were disseminated into the various districts throughout the country. He recalled that there was much emphasis placed upon the study of the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolshevik). LAUTNER also recalled that a definite chain of educational classes were organized on State, County, Section and Club levels.

LAUTNER also recalled that during the period 1945 to 1947, the Concentration Program of the Communist Party which began with the report of WILLIAMSON at the National Convention, was reported on by JAMES TORMAY in an article in "Political Affairs" in 1947. This article showed in some detail how the concentration policy was carried out in New York State. LAUTNER stated that in the early part of 1947, he had been assigned, by JOHN WILLIAMSON, who at that time was Labor Secretary of the National Communist Party, and who headed up the concentration work of the Party, to a committee headed by TORMAY, the purpose of which was to work on a concentration policy for the New York State organization. The report of TORMAY was a result of the work of this committee. LAUTNER recalled that New York usually took the initiative of following out Party policy and therefore the TORMAY plan, which was published in "Political Affairs" gave to that plan and policy, national recognition.

Speaking of the Cominform, LAUTNER stated that J. PETERS' Manual of Organization, published in 1936 was used by him in the

1930's. He recalled that at that time, the Communist Party was part of the Communist Internationale and was subject to the discipline and orders of the Communist Internationale. After the formal dissolution of the Communist Internationale, in 1941, which LAUTNER states was described by EARL BROWDER as a matter of expediency, the control heretofore exercised by the Communist Internationale was exercised by such individuals as GERHART EISLER, the directions in the official organ of the Cominform "Lasting Peace" which were distributed to the various Party officials, the publication of the report of the ZHDANOV report, the discipline exerted by the European Communist Party organizations over the Communist Party, USA, as illustrated in the DUCLOS article and the TITO incident.

LAUTNER stated that after the 1948 National Convention of the Party held in New York, he was made a member of the National Review Commission of the Communist Party. At the same time, he remained as head of the State Review Commission. He recalled that [redacted] and CONSTANTINE RADZI were also taken from the State Review Commission and placed on the National Review Commission by ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG. As a member of the National Review Commission, he received his instructions and tasks from JACK KLING. This commission worked under the supervision of the National Committee of the Communist Party and concerned itself with disciplinary problems. Members of the National Review Commission were assigned to discuss with the heads of the various State Review Commissions, their various problems in regard to the following subject matters:

1. The progress of the deviationism, revisionism and opportunism among the Communist Party members on a district level.
2. What action the National Review Commission could take to increase working class vigilance in the Communist Party.

A member of the National Review Commission would review the hearing and appellate set up at the State Review Body. In many cases the State organization would ask help in their disciplinary cases. In those instances, members of the National Review Commission would go into the State and hear the facts as "observers", but did not get too involved so as to preclude their handling the same matter as it would come up on appeal to the National Commission. He recalled the following individuals as being members on the National Review Commission with him: The chairman was ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG and the members included LOUIS WEINSTOCK, [redacted] RADZI, [redacted]

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LAUTNER could recall that the cases of appeal by MAX BEDACHT of New Jersey and [redacted] of Connecticut were instances where the National Review Commission reviewed the findings of the State Review Commissions. LAUTNER remained as a member of the National Review Commission up to the time of his expulsion from the Communist Party.

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LAUTNER recalled while the case was pending against the Party leaders in New York, BOB THOMPSON had an incident in his neighborhood where an unknown person was supposed to have attacked him when he got out of his car near his home. The same morning that this incident was published in the papers [redacted]

[redacted] a member of the New York Secretariat, came to LAUTNER and directed him to go to BOB THOMPSON's home at Sunnyside, Long Island and inform him that this situation must become real serious and that proper Party doctors should be contacted immediately and that THOMPSON must go to a hospital where X-ray tests, etc., would be made and that he must stay in bed for two to three weeks.

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[redacted] explained that this must be done in order to get a favorable decision in delaying the trial of the Communist Party leaders in New York. The reason why LAUTNER was approached by [redacted] with this undertaking was because of LAUTNER's position on the State Review Commission and that the matter was considered of a confidential nature involving a disciplinary action in relation to THOMPSON. LAUTNER, in speaking of the Party's control over the attendance at Party meetings and conventions in the period around 1948, advised that he was in charge of security in the 1948 National and State Conventions of the Communist Party. He described that at these conventions, there was a master list of all delegates and on the basis of the list, there was a number attached to each name. Three different colors of delegates' cards were used to indicate the type of delegate and that the cards carried the identical number that appeared on the master list. These lists were prepared for every session with numbers but no names and checkers indicated next to the numbers the various cards that were presented at each session. In that way, the Party knew what members had attended and what members did not attend any given session. If any person went out of a session for a short time, this fact was also noted on the list. The list was turned in to the National Organization Department of the Party.

LAUTNER recalls that in the summer of 1948, he was ordered by the New York Secretariat, under the leadership of BOB THOMPSON to start working on plans for the Party to go underground. He recalled that THOMPSON, WILLIAM NORMAN, [redacted] and himself met in a series of meetings in the summer and fall of 1948 and

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the beginning of 1949 and set up an organizational structure for underground operations. LAUTNER remembered that BOB THOMPSON at the first meetings in 1948 explained a structure for underground operation that THOMPSON stated he had received from WILLIAM Z. FOSTER and which FOSTER had brought back from a European tour which he had taken in 1947 and early 1948. THOMPSON told LAUTNER that FOSTER, while in Europe had been in consultation with European Party leaders concerning the question of the Party in the United States going underground and that, based on the experience of the European Parties with underground work, the system of threes was most suitable. LAUTNER advised that the system of threes had two aspects. There was a vertical structure which on the top consisted of three of the State Leaders, namely the political leader of the State organization, the organizational leader of the State organization and the Labor Organizer or Trade Union leader of the State Organization. The State was divided into three areas. Each of the three State leaders selected a member for each of the area leaderships. The member selected for each area was known only to the State leader who selected him. Below the three areas came the counties. Each of the area leaders selected one county leader and the county leader was known only to the area leader. This continued from counties to regions, from regions to sections, from sections to sub-sections and from sub-sections to units.

In 1949, the plans were communicated for the first time to the county leadership of the Party and steps were taken to put the plans into operation. When LAUTNER left the Party in 1950, the Party at that time was testing the seventh level of the underground operation. In addition to the vertical structure there was a horizontal structure which was actually an additional arm for the upper levels in the vertical structure of the Communist Party. The horizontal structure carried out the same duties as the various commissions and counties of the legal structure of the Party. The functions, however, were carried out on a reduced scale by individuals trusted by the leadership for their technical and political development. In this horizontal level, there was set up a reserve leadership which could replace any functionary of the State leadership who could not act. Also in this horizontal level individuals were chosen to keep large sums of money for underground activity. Also in this horizontal structure were maintained individuals who made up the communication apparatus of the Party, that is, mail drops, messenger runs, etc. Also in this horizontal structure were maintained those individuals whose duty it was to conceal Party leaders and also individuals whose duties it were to set up leaflet and propaganda apparatus.

LAUTNER recalled that up to the time of his expulsion in 1950, the Party had had manufactured mimeograph machines and furnished same to the underground apparatus of the Communist Party.

He recalled that in 1949, there was a National Committee Plenary Session when people came in from Chicago, California and other places, and he gave a demonstration to them of the efficiency of the mimeograph machines. He also, at the direction of JACK KLING, gave to these individuals, sample machines and these individuals were told to reproduce the same machine for their own use back in their districts. In connection with the gelatin kits used in Baltimore, LAUTNER knows that in 1939 and 1940, these kits were suggested by J. PETERS for use by LAUTNER in West Virginia.

In regard to his expulsion from the Communist Party, LAUTNER stated that in early December, 1949, he was asked by LOUIS ALI STOCK if he desired to go to Hungary. He told ALI STOCK that he had no money for such a trip, but ALI STOCK replied that they could raise money for the trip and that once he got into Hungary, he would be the guest of the Hungarian Government. He told LAUTNER that he could get an invitation from the Trade Unions in Hungary just as ALI STOCK did on his last trip to Hungary. LAUTNER agreed and he was instructed to get a passport. LAUTNER immediately applied for a passport at the Radio City Office of the State Department. At this same time, he was released by BOB THOMPSON from his duties in the State office of the Communist Party. During the first week of January, 1950, LAUTNER was informed by the State Department that no passports were being issued to Hungary because of the democratic strain between the United States and Hungary. LAUTNER so informed ALI STOCK.

A few days later, JACK KLING, National Treasurer of the Communist Party, went to the State leadership of the Communist Party and asked for LAUTNER's temporary release to work with the National Committee for preparation of going underground. ALI STOCK and [redacted] of the State Secretariat agreed to release LAUTNER to the National Office. b6 b7C

On January 11, 1950, KLING came to LAUTNER and told him that he should leave for Cleveland on the night of January 13 and meet KLING at the Union Station in Cleveland on January 14, 1950 at 1:00 p.m. KLING was to put LAUTNER in contact with the person who was in charge of underground preparations in the Middle West.

On January 13, 1950, LAUTNER left for Cleveland, arriving there on the morning of January 14 and registered at the Hotel Cleveland. Later at 1:00 p.m., he met JACK KLING. Later that day, he and KLING went to a house in the industrial part of Cleveland known as Kingsbury Run. When they went into the house, KLING

told LAUTNER to go to the cellar where LAUTNER stated he was confronted with two strangers. These individuals ordered LAUTNER to undress. They had what appeared to be rubber hoses in their hands and in a short time KLING, JOSEPH BRANDT, Ohio leader of the Party and [redacted] Detroit Communist Party [redacted] came down into the cellar. He was accused by these individuals of having conspired with [redacted] to introduce into Yugoslavia, Titoists. LAUTNER recalled that JOSEPH BRANDT had in his hand, a copy of the trial proceedings of the [redacted] trial in Hungary wherein [redacted] identified an individual who clearly answers the description of LAUTNER as having been the individual who had trained and moved into Yugoslavia from Bari, Titoists. LAUTNER was accused of spying for the United States Central Intelligence Agency. LAUTNER also stated that he was asked questions concerning [redacted].

LAUTNER advised that he denied all of the accusations and pleaded complete innocence. He stated that the more he protested his innocence, the more vigorous his accusers became. LAUTNER stated that his life was threatened. LAUTNER stated that he was struck by these individuals and that a gun was held against his head. He stated that although it was damp and cold, he was left standing completely naked while the interrogation went on. At one point, KLING asked LAUTNER who knew that LAUTNER was in Cleveland. LAUTNER told KLING, untruthfully, that he had told the hotel clerk that KLING was with him. After these individuals seemed to confer, KLING made LAUTNER sign a statement that LAUTNER had had a fair hearing. LAUTNER stated that he was in this place and in that condition from approximately 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. KLING informed LAUTNER that he was to appear at a cafeteria on Euclid Avenue, across from the May Company on the following morning at 11:00 a.m. When LAUTNER kept the appointment, no one showed up so he thereupon left Cleveland and went to Youngstown, Ohio to visit his family. When he returned to New York on the following Monday which was January 16, 1950, he read in the "Daily Worker" that he had been expelled from the Party on the grounds that he had covered up and prevented the expulsion of [redacted] who had appeared for the Government as a prosecution witness. LAUTNER explained that the charge was apparently based on the fact that while a member of the State Review Commission, LAUTNER had received a complaint to the effect that [redacted] a Communist Party leader, had been seen in the company of sexual perverts and was, therefore, considered unworthy of Communist Party leadership. LAUTNER stated that he first went to his wife, [redacted] with whom he resided in New York City and acquainted her with the incident in Cleveland and his innocence in regard to the alleged grounds for expulsion. LAUTNER's wife went to ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG and was told that if she stayed with LAUTNER, she, herself, would be expelled from the Party. LAUTNER at the insistence of his wife, wrote to TRACHTENBERG and asked for a fair hearing and in his letter, he denied all

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the charges made against him. As time went on, his wife finally told LAUTNER that she could no longer live with him in view of the disgrace he had brought on her and their child by reason of his alleged misconduct in the Party. In other words, as LAUTNER has stated, his wife finally came to believe what the Party had accused him of and ordered him from their home. LAUTNER stated that he had married his wife in Jersey City, New Jersey, on September 5, 1941 and had one child, a girl, through this marriage. LAUTNER also advised that his wife secured a decree of divorce in Reno, Nevada in August, 1950.

In relation to his criminal record, LAUTNER stated that he was arrested in Flint, Michigan in July, 1930 where he was covering a Hungarian Communist meeting at Akron, Ohio with a man by the name of [redacted] on the charge of vagrancy. He said that they were held for three or four days without any formal charges made against them and later were taken forcibly out of Flint, Michigan. LAUTNER also recalled that in 1923 at El Paso, Texas, he was delayed by Immigration while they checked his citizenship status. LAUTNER explained that he was returning from a trip to Mexico when he was stopped by Immigration Authorities. No charges were made against him and he was released in a short period of time.

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LAUTNER made available a typewritten resume of the lectures and topics covered by himself at various periods from 1934 up to 1949. Copies of this memorandum list have been made and are attached hereto.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: Dec. 27, 1951

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA - BRIEF  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-27-2005 BY 60309 AUC

581

Assistant United States  
advised that at the time he was in  
potential witnesses in connection with the trial of the 17  
Communist Party leaders in New York City he was taken over the  
same route and to the same house where Confidential Source

[redacted]  
in Cleveland, according to AUSA [redacted] AUSA [redacted] further stated  
that the occupant of the house at the time in question was [redacted]

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AUSA COHN has requested to be furnished with the name  
of the owner of the house where Confidential Source NYC 588  
was held and for information identifying [redacted]

In addition AUSA COHN has requested to be furnished  
with pictures of the house taken from several sides and if  
possible the cellar and also the end of Meade Avenue which  
CS NYC 588 believed he recognized. He further requested a  
map of the route taken by CS NYC 588 and JACK KLING together  
with a photostatic copy of the hotel register where CS NYC  
588 registered on January 14, 1950.

The original register signed by the informant has  
already been furnished by the Cleveland Office and a photostatic  
copy of same will be furnished to Mr. COHN.

cc: Cleveland  
NY 66-3901 (P and C)

RECORDED - 46  
INDEXED - 40

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EX-30

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JJM:TJD  
100-81752

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

No Duplication Fees are charged for Deleted Page Information Sheet(s).

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 2  
Page 4 ~ Referral/Direct  
Page 7 ~ Referral/Direct

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March 30, 1962

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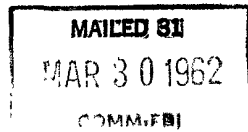
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Dear 

Your letter postmarked March 22, 1962, has  
been received.

In response to your inquiry, I must advise  
that the only material this Bureau has available for dissem-  
ination regarding the subject you mentioned can be found in  
my book, "Masters of Deceit." I regret I am unable to answer  
your specific inquiry.

Sincerely yours,



J. Edgar Hoover  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Information  
contained in "Masters of Deceit" regarding John Lautner is in the  
chapter entitled "Communist Discipline," and Lautner is used as an  
example of one victim of communist discipline. The book relates  
that Lautner had been a member of the Communist Party for more  
than 20 years and it tells how Lautner after being exposed to indignities  
by his fellow communists was expelled from the Party and shortly  
thereafter came to the FBI with the story. It is believed the corre-  
spondent may have read about Lautner in "Masters of Deceit."

SAW:blc  
(3)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

MAR 30 4 52 PM '62  
REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

RECEIVED-SEC 1028

REC'D MAR 30 1962

6010

53 APR 10 1962



TRUE COPY

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DATE 01-13-2006 BY 60309 AUC  
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Gentlemen:

Please let me know if John Lautner who was a communist and after 20 years turned catholic. Is that his Real Name?

I am asking because I wrote Washington D. C. 20 Years ago and there was not any living person named Lautner outside of our own family anywhere in the country and my Father said there was not any left in Germany.

Please check and let me know.

Please acknowledge, Thank You.

/s/



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EX. 1

Gentlemen:

Please let  
me know if John  
Lautner who was  
a Communist and  
after 20 years turned  
Catholic Is that  
his Real name?

I am asking  
because I wrote  
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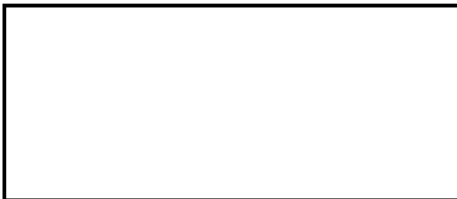
Washington D.C.  
20 years ago and  
there was not  
any living person  
named Lautner  
outside of our own  
family anywhere in  
the country and my father D.C.  
said there was no one  
left in Germany.

I will leave check and  
let me know.

Please keep me updated  
on this. Thank you.



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PRAY  
FOR  
PEACE



J. Edgar Hoover  
F. B. I.  
Washington D. C.  
U. S. A.

May 4, 1962

EX-115

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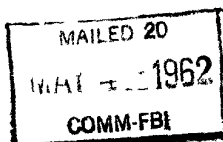
Dear [redacted]

Your letter of April 28th has been received, and I appreciate the interest prompting you to write as you did.

Some information relating to Mr. John Lautner does appear in my book, "Masters of Deceit," on pages 174 and 175. You may want to refer to this book which should be available at your local library. However, it is not within the province of this Bureau to issue clearances or nonclearances of any type. I might add that Mr. Lautner did appear as a witness for the Government in a number of Smith Act trials of Communist Party functionaries.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover



NOTE: Correspondent cannot be identified in Bufiles. Bufiles indicate that John Lautner, a former Communist Party functionary, was expelled from the Party and has been a valuable Government witness in numerous Smith Act trials. He has been paid as a consultant to the Internal Security Division of the Department and at one time had some difficulty with the Department. He has been cooperative with the Bureau and in February, 1959, the Director wrote him a cordial letter commenting on his testimony and thanking him for kind expressions about the FBI. It is, of course, a matter of public record that he has appeared as a Government witness.

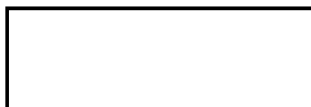
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April

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. Malone  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

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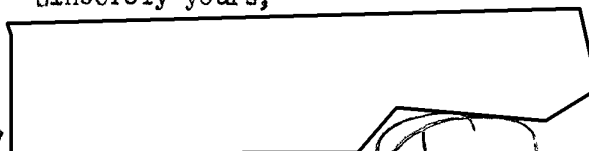
Dear Sir,

An endorsement by the F.B.I. or J. Edgar Hoover is rarely questioned, however I would appreciate your confirmation of the following introduction of Mr. John Lautner, who recently spoke about the "Communist Conspiracy" at a Women's Club of Forest Hills meeting:

"Mr. John is an outstanding authority on communism. He had joined the Communist Party at one time but then defected. He has worked with the F.B.I. and the government as a consultant on communism. He received commendations from J. Edgar Hoover in his book "Masters of Deceit"."

"When I questioned the wisdom of engaging an ex-communist as a speaker, I was told that Mr. Lautner had received "clearance from the F.B.I." Could you clarify what this means, if it is true.

Sincerely yours,



**EXP. PROC.**

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**CHANGED TO**

*105-127247-X1*

APR 10 1964

*Re - Kas*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

TO : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

DATE: June 11, 1962

FROM : Mr. H. O. Bly

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER  
SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Evans	_____
Malone	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

Recently the Stanford University Press of Stanford, California, published a book entitled "Ex-Communist Witnesses, Four Studies in Fact Finding," written by Herbert L. Packer.

This book is quoted as being a challenging examination of the testimony of Whittaker Chambers, Elizabeth Bentley, Louis Budenz and John Lautner.

There is enclosed herewith a Xerox copy of chapter 5 dealing with an analysis of thousands of pages of public testimony of John Lautner, before the Subversive Activities Control Board and various Smith Act cases. There is also enclosed a Xerox copy of the chapter entitled "Conclusion" which sets forth an over-all analysis of John Lautner's credibility as a witness on pages 224 and 225.

ACTION:

It is suggested that this material be filed in the captioned file for possible future reference purposes. An analysis of this book was prepared by the Central Research Section.  
Enclosures - 2  
100-16177

1 - Mr. Baumgardner  
1 - Mr. Bly

HOB:cdb  
(3)

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## 5 • LAUTNER

John Lautner's route to the witness stand was very different from that of the other three witnesses we have considered. Chambers, Bentley, and Budenz all defected after a prolonged period of disillusionment with Communism. For all of them, the break seems to have been a soul-searing experience, just as their involvement with Communism was a deeply felt emotional attachment. Lautner did not leave the Party; he was expelled. And what he lost appears to have been for him a job, not a mission. The difference between his case and the others is the difference between the amateur and the professional. Of the defectors, Lautner alone was a professional to whom Communism was a career, an organization man who advanced step by step in a bureaucracy only to lose his tenure when he became unacceptable to the concern's new management. His story gives a glimpse into the workaday side of the Communist movement, where a talent for the organizational chart and the tidy filing system is of more account than a passion for dialectics or an urge to be as one with the forces of history.

Lautner was born in Hungary on January 1, 1902. At the age of sixteen months he was brought to the United States but returned to his native land at the age of four. During the Communist Bela Kun uprising in Hungary following World War I, Lautner was drafted into the home guard, which was subsequently integrated into the Red Army. In the confused period that followed, Lautner was arrested as a Czech spy by the Rumanian Army, and after two months in a prisoners' compound, he was sent to Czechoslovakia. He never returned to Hungary. Lautner has testified that he was not a Communist during these years, and since he was only seventeen when he was expelled from Hungary, there seems no reason to doubt his claim.

In July 1920, he re-entered the United States and for several years lived an uneventful life as a laborer, first in the steel mills of Youngstown, Ohio, and then as a bricklayer apprenticed to his father until he obtained his own union card. In 1926 he became a citizen.

His growing interest in political action took him to New York in the spring of 1927 and he became involved in the International Workers Relief Organization, a working-class though non-Communist group. Like any young man, he began to make social contacts, and these contacts formed and furthered his career. Anomalous enough, it was through a Hungarian dramatic club that he met the people who sponsored his membership in the Communist Party. He joined the Party in 1929 and was assigned to the Yorkville unit in New York City. He was pointed in the direction his career was to take.

In 1930 Lautner was sent to the Hungarian National Training School, one of the nationality group institutions maintained by the Party. After this period of training, he was transferred to Detroit, where he began what became the predominant phase of his career in the Party, working with nationality groups. His first assignment was with the Hungarian Bureau, which had the mission of encouraging Hungarian-Americans to join the Auto Workers Industrial Union, at that time a prime target for Communist infiltration.

And so began the round of assignments that might as well have characterized the advance of a promising young junior executive in a business enterprise. Each assignment a job conscientiously done, a step up the ladder. The young man favorably impresses his superiors. He gets better assignments. He is on the way. And so it went for Lautner. A few years in the provinces—Detroit, Canada, Cleveland. Then back to the home office in New York with more responsibilities and greater recognition. What he did day in and day out, what the pattern of his life was, we do not know. His career as a Communist is known, but one wonders how his daily life differed from that of more mundanely situated people.

In 1936 Lautner was assigned to West Virginia and the difficult job of recruiting for the Party in the coal and chemical industries. By then he was important enough to be called back to New York at regular intervals to consult with the National Committee of the Party. Among the many influential friends he made was Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, whose durability as a Party tycoon is virtually un-

ENCLOSURE



matched. Some fifteen years later, Lautner's testimony helped bring about the only significant interruption in her career, her conviction in a Smith Act prosecution.

Lautner's advancement was marked by the honor of membership on the presiding committee of the National Convention held in 1940. The following year he was sent to the National Training School in New York, a very selective "command" school for seasoned Party leaders. This mark of recognition came his way through Roy Hudson, who, with Bob Minor, was running the Party's affairs during the absence of Earl Browder, then confined in the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. Between his stint at the National Training School and his induction into the Army in 1942, Lautner served in the Party's Language Department, which was headed by Avro Landy, and then as Secretary of the Hungarian Bureau and as Secretary of the Hungarian Section of the Party-affiliated International Workers Order.

Lautner's career in the Army, beginning in November 1942, seems to have been similar to his career in the Party, the talents previously recognized in the one now apparently recognized by the other. After basic training he was sent to the Military Intelligence School at Camp Ritchie, Maryland. He was assigned to duty with a Psychological Warfare Unit, first in Algeria and then in Bari, Italy. Here he came into contact with some Hungarians in a British unit, with ultimately disastrous consequences for his career. Although Lautner claimed to have been completely uninvolved in Party activities during his Army career, one of the Hungarians whom he met at that time later denounced him as a Titoist when, in 1949, the Communist regime in Hungary tried and executed Laszlo Rajk, one of their erstwhile leaders, on charges of spying for Tito. Although the Rajk trial received a good deal of publicity in this country, there was no public mention of Lautner's involvement and he was apparently unaware that his name had been brought to the trial. However, some Communist leaders in this country received private information about his alleged complicity and, as we shall see, became suspicious about his fidelity. Ironically enough, the Hungarian Communists later admitted that Rajk had been innocent of the charges brought against him and he was posthumously "rehabilitated." That came too late, however, to help Lautner, who by then had been expelled from the American Communist Party.

Throughout his military career Lautner was, he later insisted, and there is no evidence to gainsay it, technically severed from the Party and did nothing to forward the ends of the Communist movement. He did, however, stay in touch with Party affairs through correspondence with his old friend Elizabeth Curley Flynn.

During these years the Party had been transformed under Earl Browder's direction into the Communist Political Association and had temporarily abandoned its militant role in favor of cooperation with the war effort. At the time of Lautner's discharge from the service in the summer of 1945, the Party was preparing to reconstitute itself and Lautner attended the New York State Convention and the National Convention, which accomplished this return to proletarian militancy. Since he was then unattached to a district of the Party and therefore could not attend as a regular or alternate delegate, he was invited to attend as a "fraternal" delegate.

Early in 1946, Hal Simon, a member of the New York State Secretariat, gave Lautner the task of helping to organize the building trades section of the Party in accordance with the new "concentration" policy. On one occasion, Lautner described that policy: "The Communist Party concentrates upon the main decisive industries and in this industry on the main decisive factories, and in these main decisive factories on the main departments, and in these main departments on the key people."

After "concentration" on the building trades, Lautner moved to the Chelsea region and "concentration" among longshoremen and transportation workers. In May 1947, Bob Thompson, a member of the National Committee and state chairman of the New York Party, recognized Lautner by appointing him to the State Review Commission. This commission, Lautner later testified, was entrusted with preserving and guarding the Marxist-Leninist line against deviationists. It selected promising Party members for special education and promotion, reviewed the disciplinary proceedings of subordinate committees, and guarded against spies and "stool pigeons." This assignment, combining as it did high administrative duties, a kind of judicial function, and security police work, represented the apogee, as well as the beginning of the end, of Lautner's career in the Party.

In 1948, after the indictment under the Smith Act of the national leaders of the Party, including Dennis, the Party's secretary, Lautner's "police" talents came into their own. He was given

charge of security arrangements at the 1948 National Convention and, during the trial, was entrusted by Dennis with hiring bodyguards for the defendants and with locating safe meeting places for the National Board. At the same time he was, he claimed (although the claim was disputed by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn), appointed to membership on the National Review Commission.

After the Dennis indictment, with its promise of hard times for American Communists, Lautner's main work was preparing the New York Party to go underground. These were nerve-wracking days, and suspicion and distrust apparently burst out among the comrades. Lautner soon suffered a fate not unknown among counterespionage agents. In carrying out his task of guarding against spies and traitors to the Party, he aroused suspicions about his own reliability, partly because of security failures for which he was held responsible, and partly because of his involvement in the Rajk affair. Rightly or wrongly, and this later became a matter of some controversy (with the truth, as it was so often in those trying days for the Communists, hidden in the clatter of charge and countercharge) he was suspected of being an FBI informer. According to Lautner, it was only *after* the inquisition and expulsion that he contacted the FBI. At any rate, he was relieved of his delicate assignment and sent to do less sensitive work in Cleveland.

There, in January 1950, in a setting that he later described in dramatic detail and with telling effect on the witness stand, Lautner was lured to a dingy cellar by Party hatchet men, stripped naked, and subjected to an inquisition. Only the sheer accident of having left a comrade's name at his hotel, he hinted, saved him from worse than inquisition. Trained as he was in the folkways of the Party, Lautner was not surprised to read in the *Daily Worker* a few days later that he had been expelled from Party membership.

His next move reveals the Party bureaucrat at his most typical. He appealed to the National Review Commission of the Party for a hearing and reinstatement. The Communist Party had been his life; there was no other, no higher authority to which he could appeal. Not surprisingly, he received no reply to his appeal. He then collected his unemployment compensation and went fishing. For the next several months, he subsequently declared, he read

and meditated—probably reflecting wryly on the course of events that had led to his predicament. Finally he got in touch with the FBI, offering his services to the Department of Justice in its prosecution of Communist leaders and organizations. Here was a prize catch, as the Justice Department was quick to realize. Lautner became a "consultant" to the Department and embarked on a new career as the Government's chief witness in a series of Smith Act trials and Subversive Activities Control Board hearings.

## II

From 1952 to 1956, Lautner appeared as a principal witness in no less than 25 proceedings relating to the issue of Communist penetration. Over and over again he told his story. Nine of these appearances were before the Subversive Activities Control Board in proceedings to compel the registration of Communist-action or Communist-front organizations. Of these, by far the most important was what is often referred to as the "parent" proceeding, brought to compel the registration of the Communist Party itself. Fifteen other proceedings were Smith Act prosecutions against "second-string" leaders of the Communist Party ranging from New York to Hawaii. Lautner's remaining appearance was in a proceeding relating to Communist infiltration of public education conducted by the New York State Board of Regents.

These were years of intensive official concern with the problems of Communist penetration, of fact-finding for informational purposes, and of fact-finding as a basis for invoking official sanctions against Communists and their allies. It was this second type of fact-finding in which Lautner's testimony played a predominant role. The distinction between the two, which was referred to in Chapter I, is necessary for an understanding of the significance of Lautner's testimony and the processes by which it was elicited. Lautner was not engaged in supplying public information. He was testifying in proceedings designed to put some people in jail and to impose other unpleasant consequences on other people and organizations. When that much is at stake, testimony is very carefully elicited by its proponents, here attorneys for the Government, and equally carefully tested by its opponents, here attorneys for the Communist defendants. This is the kind of process to which Chambers was subjected twice, in the two Hiss

trials, Bentley only once, in the first Remington trial, and Budenz far fewer times than Lautner. Moreover, Chambers, Bentley, and Budenz testified mainly before Congressional committees. Not so Lautner. These sharply drawn adversary proceedings were the main arena of his testimony. For a witness, such proceedings are truly ordeal by combat. And they are much less satisfactory than Congressional committee investigations for developing a story in the large, for providing nice nuances and psychological insights. Lautner's testimony has none of the drama that marked the Congressional appearances of the other three. This was plain hard work.

Twenty-five proceedings in four years is a lot. But their significance is not merely quantitative. In each of them Lautner was taken over the same general areas of testimony. These testimonial occasions, therefore, afford an unmatched opportunity to observe the process by which a witness's testimony is built up, shaped, and refined. We can see at work the process by which the weaknesses discovered in an earlier appearance are glossed over and rectified in a later one. The testimony takes on a life of its own, growing not only from the matrix of the witness's recollection of the primary events about which he is testifying but also from the directing force of the testimonial occasions themselves. And we can see the cross-examiners at work, probing, testing, impairing, and when they can, destroying, not just in the context of a single testimonial occasion but using the results of previous cross-examinations and grasping whatever advantage they can from the fact that no one can possibly tell the same complicated story in precisely the same way 25 different times. How does the testimony stand up? Where does the balance of credibility lie? What testimony is strengthened, what weakened? And, perhaps most important, what segments of testimony by their very nature are unaffected by this kind of sustained examination and re-examination? These are questions for which we hope to obtain answers in this examination of Lautner's testimony.

We shall begin by narrating the substance of Lautner's testimony, keeping in mind that what we have is an extraordinarily concentrated distillation of thousands of pages of testimony. There follow some general observations on the cross-examination to which the testimony was subjected on various occasions. We

shall then consider the corroborative and contradictory testimony elicited from other witnesses, as well as additional factors bearing on the reliability of Lautner's testimony. Next we shall consider some of the variations in substance and style produced by the diversity of occasions on which Lautner testified. Finally, we shall present a few tentative conclusions about this testimony and its significance for our basic inquiry about the efficacy of fact-finding processes.

Before we embark on these lines of inquiry, however, something should be said about Lautner's testimonial style, which is directly related to his role as a Communist functionary. Lautner's testimony reveals an almost complete absence of the passion and personal involvement that so strongly characterized the testimony of Chambers, Bentley, and Budenz. Lautner rarely revealed the fervent commitment to Communism, or the equally fervent rejection of it, that was so often evident in the testimony of the others. Having apparently accepted Communism according to Lenin's dictum that it was "not a dogma but a program for action," Lautner went about the performance of his Party functions in a matter-of-fact way. This workmanlike approach is equally characteristic of his testimonial performance for the Government. Once, when pressed by defense counsel on the question of pecuniary profit from his role as an ex-Communist witness, he disdainfully replied that he neither lectured nor wrote books—an obvious aspersion on the activities of other ex-Communists.

It may be that the relative absence of a sermonizing tendency in Lautner's evidence suggests a greater degree of objectivity on his part than is inferable from the testimony of, say, Louis Budenz. On the other hand, his relative lack of personal involvement may suggest to some, as it often did to defense counsel, a possible susceptibility to suggestions from government investigators and lawyers. Whatever the conclusion, and both may have some truth in them, a study of Lautner's testimony sheds little light on what it was about the Communist movement that bound its adherents so firmly to it.

### III

Lautner's experience with the Communist Party spanned two decades in which he observed and worked within the Party struc-

ture as a student, an instructor, and an active, high-level functionary. As a student he became versed in at least the rudiments of the Marxist-Leninist doctrine. As an instructor of Party organization he became thoroughly familiar with the Party structure and the personnel who occupied positions of prominence within that structure. As a section organizer, district representative, and functionary in the post-1945 reorganization of the Party, he added practical experience to his knowledge of Communist theory.

Perhaps his main value to the Government was his familiarity with the post-1945 purposes and activities of the Party. Lautner is the only defector who enjoyed close personal relations with the top functionaries during this period and consequently observed the course of Party developments after the repudiation of Browder's policies.

The synopses of his testimony given below all relate to areas of his experience that especially illuminate the theory and structure of American Communism.

In the spring of 1930 Lautner was assigned to a three-months training program at the 1930 Hungarian Training School in New York. His courses included "Marxism-Leninism," "Political Economy," "History of the Russian Revolution," "Dialectical Materialism," "The Program of the Sixth World Congress," "The Communist Manifesto," and "The Program of the Communist International." His instructors included the notorious J. Peters, described by Lautner as an organizational specialist on cadre work for the National Committee, and author of *The Communist Party: A Manual on Organization*; Louis Bebrits, member of the editorial board of the Hungarian-American Communist Party paper known as *Uj Elore* and later Minister of Transportation in the Hungarian Communist Government; Gus Majer, Secretary of the National Hungarian Bureau in 1930-31; John Gyetvai, a member of the editorial board of *Uj Elore*, who was removed in 1931 following a factional struggle and who, after World War II, was Minister to Turkey for the Hungarian Government; John Santa (Santo), an editor of *Uj Elore* and section organizer in the Bronx; Louis Weinstein, later a member of the National Review Commission, who was elected to the National Committee in 1945; and several lesser lights.

In *U.S. v. Silverman*, Lautner testified that Gyetvai "stated that the purpose of the school was to develop a core of party functionaries through the Marxist-Leninist education . . . given in this school." The school was held in district headquarters of the Communist Party and about twenty "promising young" Party members from all over the country attended. In the Board of Regents hearing, Lautner testified that the class was addressed by J. Peters, who told them "that the party is investing a lot of money, time and talent in developing us as professional revolutionaries, and he hopes and the party as such hopes that we will live up to the estimate of the party . . . that we will become professional revolutionaries."

This testimony served to emphasize the foreign domination of the American Party as well as its adherence to a program of action leading to violent overthrow of the Government.

In recognition of his work in West Virginia, Lautner was selected to attend the 1941 National Training School, a three-month, full-time school in New York City. According to Lautner, the school never convened in the same place for more than one day, but was held in homes in various parts of the city. This bit of local color no doubt contributed to the Government's attempt to portray the Party as a clandestine, conspiratorial organization. Despite the school's floating nature, Lautner claimed, the students had at their disposal "all the writing, collected works of Lenin, [and] all the works of Stalin." The student body was a select group of seven leaders of state party organizations.

The classical Communist literature and leading contemporary Communist writings were studied. A course on Marxism-Leninism was given by George Siskind, described by Lautner as one of the leading functionaries of the Party, who was director of Agitation-Propaganda in the New York State Party in 1933 and was director of national cadres for the Party after 1945. Lautner relied upon Siskind's instruction when testifying about Communist objectives. "The History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union" was taught by Sam Carr, who in 1931 was Executive Secretary of the Canadian Communist Party and who in 1949 was detained on Ellis Island in connection with the Gouzenko spy case. Other courses given in the school were "Political Economy," taught by Jacob

"Pop" Mindel, head of the National School Commission and director of the National Training School; "Party Organization," taught by John Williamson, a member of the National Committee, Labor Secretary of the Communist Party, and Organizational Secretary; "Party Problems," by Roy Hudson, a member of the National Committee until 1945; "Communist Party and the Trade Unions," by Jack Johnstone, a National Committeeman in the 30's; "Problems in China," by Rudy Baker, a district organizer in Detroit and reputedly a long-time Comintern representative; "Imperialism," by Avro Landy, head of the Nationality Groups Commission; "Negro Problems," by James Ford, National Committeeman until Browder's expulsion; and a "Marxist version" of American history, by Francis Franklin, onetime national leader of the Young Communist League, who was later expelled from the Party because of difference of opinion with the leaders.

As in the case of testimony on the 1930 Hungarian Training School, this testimony showed the Party's objectives and served as a basis for the assertion that the 1945 reconstitution picked up a consistent thread of seditious activity.

When Lautner returned from the Army in June 1945, he had conversations with Williamson and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, members of the National Committee. Flynn told Lautner about William Z. Foster's criticism of Browder and about the reversal of attitude by leading functionaries toward Browder's "Popular Front" policies. Williamson informed Lautner of the imminent special convention and instructed him to prepare himself by reading the Draft Resolution of the National Board, the Duclos letter, and pre-convention articles in the *Daily Worker*. The letter by Jacques Duclos, a leader of the French Communist Party, had excited considerable ferment within the Party and is described by Lautner as a factor in the decision to hold the 1945 convention. The letter was extremely critical of Browder's policies, declaring that they were deviations from Marxism-Leninism. The Draft Resolution accepted the Duclos letter and called for a reconstitution of the Party.

At Williamson's invitation, Lautner attended the New York State Convention, which preceded the National Convention by a week. Lautner testified that at the State Convention Foster gave

a report in which he endorsed the Duclos letter, criticized Browder's errors, and urged a return to Marxist-Leninist principles. About 500 people attended the convention. They selected a delegation to the National Convention, and by a unanimous vote passed a resolution urging a reconstitution of the Party.

The National Convention was held in the Floral Clubhouse in the Times Square area on the last three days of July 1945. About 100 people attended as delegates, alternate delegates, and fraternal delegates. It was closed to anyone who was not a delegate. Lautner attended as a fraternal or guest delegate at Williamson's invitation, and was assigned to the Veterans' Committee. He was also given the task of supervising a stairway that led to a room where stenographers were making copies of the proceedings. Lautner claimed that he was present at all the general sessions.

The main report was given by Foster. Lautner related a summary of this report.

Foster in his report to the convention analyzed the revisionist errors that Earl Browder committed under his leadership.

In his report he accused him that he deviated from the Marxist concept of economy . . . he accused Browder of giving up the vanguard role, the leading role of the Communist Party . . . of denying the imperialist monopoly nature of capitalism . . . And then in his report Foster dealt with the effect of this revisionist leadership on the Communist movement . . . in the United States and its effect elsewhere, and called upon the Party membership to restudy the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism, vigorous efforts to eradicate all vestiges of opportunism and revisionism from the ranks of the Party, and to rebuild, to go back and rebuild the Communist Party of the United States.

Lautner testified that Williamson, Secretary of the Political Association, made two addresses—one on the reconstitution of the Party, and another in which he read the Party constitution to the Assembly. Because of its verbal inconsistency with the idea of forcible overthrow, the 1945 constitution has been a hurdle to the basic theory of the Smith Act prosecutions. On numerous occasions Lautner testified that in fact there was a contradiction in the constitution, insofar as it purported in its preamble to support both the United States Constitution and the "principles of Marxism-Leninism." When describing Williamson's address on the constitution, Lautner usually related an incident that took place while the sections were being read. A delegate called from the floor:

"Where is the dictatorship of the proletariat in this preamble?" According to Lautner, Eugene Dennis stepped in at this point and answered, "It's there, even the blind can see it." The implication apparently was that orthodox Communist objectives were to be understood even though not explicitly stated.

The convention also heard a general disavowal of Browder's policies by the Party's leading functionaries. Jacob "Pop" Mindel, among others, gave a self-critical speech, pointing out "how even he, a Marxist-Leninist scholar and theoretician, could be duped by Browder's revisionist policies."

The convention concluded with a unanimous decision to adopt the constitution, and that was the end of Browder and the beginning of the end of the American Communist Party as a force in American life.

Lautner claimed that when he returned from the Army he found that the Party structure had undergone extensive change—"there were large community clubs in various parts of the city . . . there were no shop units to speak of, or industrial units or sections at that time." This, he implied, indicated the temporary "open" character of the Communist Political Association, in contrast to the disciplined militancy that had preceded it and was to follow. With the formal reconstitution of the Party at the 1945 convention, the Party began a three-pronged program: to reorganize, to re-educate, and to carry out a concentration policy in the "decisive industries," according to the policy set out by Foster at the 1945 convention.

Large clubs were broken up into smaller groups. New sections were established and other clubs were streamlined. A survey was made of industrial workers, and industrial sections were established "in furniture, needle trades, [and] on the waterfront." Other sections were created among the longshoremen, cement workers, teamsters, and electrical workers. Professional sections were also established.

The concentration program consisted of recruiting members in the "decisive" sectors of the industry. Lautner testified that New York County was divided into six concentration regions. He served with the reorganization committee and then was assigned work with the No. 1 region—Chelsea—where the "main concentration problem" existed among the transport workers.

As part of the re-education program Lautner taught classes of 20 to 25 students who were Party functionaries among the bakers, furriers, and members of the building trades. From 1946 to 1949 he instructed them on the history of the American Communist Party, the organization of the Party, political economy, and Marxism-Leninism. In these classes, held in the Jefferson School, the Roosevelt Building, and Party headquarters, Lautner used all the classic books in the Little Lenin Library, and Foster's Report to the 1945 convention and the program of the Communist International, among other documents. If not introduced before, these documents usually were brought in at this point in Lautner's testimony.

Lautner bolstered this testimony by referring to a preliminary conversation with Alberto Moreau, the head of the School Commission in New York, who assigned Lautner to teach. According to Lautner he was instructed on pedagogy and on the content of his courses. An outline of the courses listing the material covered was another aid to Lautner's testimony. Lautner's claim of adherence to the true Communist line was further strengthened by his assertion that his classes were attended by other leading functionaries whose purpose was to supervise his teaching. While the main point of this testimony was to explain what was taught, it served the equally important function of demonstrating the monolithic adherence to the Party line that characterized the training activities. Since Lautner's testimony revealed that indoctrination, rather than discussion, characterized the Party's pedagogical activities, the characterization of the Party as a militant action group was presented to the jury.

After the Dennis indictment Lautner's main responsibility was to prepare an underground organization for the New York Party. A number of meetings were held with the State Secretariat—Bob Thompson, Hal Simon, and Bob Norman. Thompson told Lautner that according to Foster's report on the experience in Europe, only 10 per cent of the Party would remain intact should the Party be declared illegal. Consequently, plans were made to integrate 10 per cent of the members into an "organized force that was supposed to fight in an organized fashion, to fight back into legality."

Lautner described the underground plan as having two aspects,

"vertical and horizontal." Vertically, the underground was to have seven levels—state, area, county, region, section, subsection, and unit. Each level would be organized in groups of three, with initiative moving from the top to the bottom level. The state leadership formed the apex of the triangle. Each of the three members of the state leadership—the political head, the organizational head, and the trade union mass organization head—was to appoint three members at the area level. Each of these three in turn made three appointments at the next lower level, and so on down to the unit level. Hence, with the exception of those in the top and bottom strata, each person would know only six others—the two others of his group of three, the one who made his appointment, and the three that he appointed. Lautner testified that when he left the Party the underground had been established and was functioning at all seven levels in New York and that the same organizational plan was being used elsewhere.

Lautner used the term "horizontal" to describe the reserve leadership and communications and propaganda system to be available to the various levels. Although he did not himself use the analogy, the resemblance to line and staff functions in a military organization seems apparent. It was to this staff phase of the underground program that Lautner devoted most of his efforts. Lautner helped to obtain photo-offset equipment, short-wave radio sets, and mimeograph machines to equip the Party for its underground operations. A small flat-bed hand mimeograph machine was made for the lower levels of the organization. The machine could be disassembled so that it would not be difficult to conceal. Lautner instructed functionaries from other states in the use of the machines. He claimed that when he left the Party, over 600 such mimeograph machines had been manufactured, 300 were being manufactured, and the Party planned to order another 300. Besides working on underground communications equipment, Lautner worked at finding proper meeting and contact places and made plans for hiding Party leaders in the event that it became necessary.

This line of testimony, which was relatively untouched on cross-examination, must have done much to confirm the view that the Party was a close-knit conspiratorial organization.

Although Lautner described the circumstances surrounding his expulsion from the Party in many hearings, such testimony may at

first glance seem irrelevant to any of the issues in a Smith Act prosecution, and its admissibility was usually challenged as irrelevant to any issue before the tribunal. Judge Harlan, upholding the conviction of the second-string Communists in *U.S. v. Flynn*, explained that this testimony was admissible on at least two grounds: "that the Party functioned not as an ordinary political party but in a covert, deceptive, violent, and highly disciplined manner such as might be expected of a revolutionary organization," and "that although provisions of the Party constitution seemed to belie a revolutionary purpose, the constitution was not in practice faithfully followed"—the Government's so-called "Acsopian" theory. The same explanations serve to demonstrate the relevance of much else in Lautner's testimony.

Late in 1949 the Party became suspicious that Lautner was in communication with the FBI. In February 1949, Lautner had received reports in his capacity as head of the New York State Review Commission about the suspicious activities of Angela Calomiris, who later appeared as a witness for the Government in the *Dennis* case. Apparently he had failed to give his superiors adequate warning about her probable defection. About the same time, according to Lautner, a Party member called him about a phone call received by the member's wife. The caller had given his number, which the Party member gave to Lautner. Lautner scribbled the number on his office pad. The number belonged to an FBI agent. Apparently someone in the Party's security apparatus found the number and traced it. This set of circumstances bred suspicion that Lautner was an FBI agent, or at least that he was sheltering informers within the Party. And, on the basis of the Rajk affair, some leaders of the Party also had become suspicious that Lautner had made friends among Titoists while he was overseas, or that he was an international spy. When questioned on cross-examination about these possibilities, Lautner categorically denied having been anything but a loyal Communist until his expulsion from the Party.

Suspicion that he was a traitor to the Party led, Lautner claimed, first to an unsuccessful attempt to have him liquidated behind the Iron Curtain, and then to an unceremonious inquisition in a Cleveland cellar, where his life was threatened and his membership in the Party terminated.

In November and December, 1949, Louis Weinstock, one of



the principal Party leaders in the labor movement, advised Lautner to go to Hungary to do Party work. Lautner testified that he went to Thompson to discuss the matter and Thompson "willingly approved." About this time Lautner was talking to Weinstock about other matters when Howard Johnson, educational director of the New York Party, inquired about Moses Simon's arrest in Hungary as a British agent. "Weinstock curtly told him, 'You mind your own business.'" This incident in the context of later events led Lautner to believe that the Party hoped to have him liquidated in Hungary. What apparently saved Lautner, who dutifully applied for a passport, was that his application was denied because of the Party's strained relations with Hungary.

Jack Kling urged Lautner to go to the Midwest to do further work on the underground project. The State Security Council approved Lautner's transfer and on January 14, 1950, he left New York for Cleveland to meet Jack Kling. He checked in at the Hotel Cleveland, had lunch, and went to a theater with Kling. They stayed around until late evening when a car picked them up and took them to a house in the Kingsbury Run section of Cleveland. Kling told Lautner to go down to the cellar. He entered the cellar and found two men playing cards who ordered him to undress. The men had guns, knives, and rubber hoses. After his pockets had been searched, Solly Wellman, a Party leader from Detroit, and Joe Brandt, a Party leader from Ohio, entered the room with Jack Kling and the driver of the car. They accused Lautner of being a "traitor," "spy," and "stool pigeon." In the room were a recording machine and another machine that they said was a lie detector. Lautner was asked how long he had been a CIA member and what his relationship with the Field brothers was. When they asked whom he knew in Cleveland, Lautner mentioned that he had left Kling's name at the hotel desk. Apparently this frightened his interrogators, for after making him sign a confession, they released him and told him to meet them the next day at a downtown restaurant. The next day Lautner went to the appointed place, but no one appeared, so he left Cleveland and returned to New York.

On January 17, Lautner read of his expulsion in the *Daily Worker*. He sent a letter requesting reinstatement to Trachtenberg, chairman of the National Review Commission, but received

no answer. Lautner testified that although the constitution provided that no one could be expelled without a hearing and a review of the decision, the only "hearing" he received was the Cleveland cellar inquisition. This line of testimony, with its spy thriller overtones, was undoubtedly quite effective in depicting the ruthlessness of the Party's leaders and the divergence between their professions of peace and their militant practices.

Another major area of testimony, particularly important to the Government in the Subversive Activities Control Board proceedings, concerns the relations of the Communist Party of the United States with Russia, with the Communist International (Comintern), and with other Communist parties—the issue of foreign domination.

Prior to the enactment of the Foreign Agents Registration Act in 1940, the Party was openly affiliated with the Comintern. Many American Communists—Earl Browder, Bob Minor, Gil Green, and William Foster, among others—represented this international organization, according to Lautner. After passage of the Act, this open affiliation ceased and the relationship became covert. The main link between the U.S. Party and the Communist International then became Gerhardt Eisler, whom Lautner knew in the '30's under the name of Edwards. Eisler, of course, is known as an international agent of the Comintern. After his deportation from this country in 1949, he went to East Germany, where he became Propaganda Chief for the Communist-dominated regime. Lautner testified to having had several contacts with Eisler in the 1930's. According to Lautner, when Eisler spoke "we were very attentive to what he had to say, and what he did say, well, he should know, he is the representative, and what he says is the Party line. There was no questioning of [his] judgment."

After 1945 Lautner saw Eisler shortly after the latter's release from Ellis Island and again a few days later at Party headquarters. Lautner also saw him in 1949, when Eisler gave a speech at a New York restaurant to a gathering sponsored by the Civil Rights Congress in honor of the Communists released from Ellis Island. Lautner was asked: "Did Eisler to your knowledge ever undertake to influence the Party activities in this country, after 1945?" Lautner replied, "Yes."



Other evidence of foreign domination given by Lautner included testimony that the Communist International controlled the Profintern, and that the Trade Union Unity League, with which Lautner worked in Detroit, was affiliated with the Profintern. Lautner claimed that the policy of the Party in the early '30's was "to build a Red revolutionary trade union movement under the leadership of the Profintern." Lautner also recalled an oath of allegiance to the Soviet Union read by Carl Brodsky at a gathering in Madison Square Garden. Additional evidence of the foreign control of the American Party was provided by Lautner's description of a conversation with Jack Kling in January 1950. Lautner showed Kling a pamphlet, written by Browder after the 1945 convention, in which Browder stated that all major policies during his leadership "had the previous knowledge, consent and active support of the decisive International Communist Leadership." "Kling's only comment was a smile, and he [said], 'if this is not stool pigeon work on the part of Browder, then nothing is,' a remark that was doubtless intended by the witness to be taken as an admission that what Browder had written was true.

Lautner also described the attitude of the propaganda organs of the American Communist Party toward the Soviet Union. He claimed he could not remember any instances when *Political Affairs*, the *Communist* (predecessor of *Political Affairs*), or the *Daily Worker* ever took issue with or criticized the Soviet Union "or any of [the] people's democracies."

*Soviet Russia Today*, the official organ of the Friends of the Soviet Union, was distributed "as widely as possible by the Communist Party." Lautner said that he saw Teddy Bayer, the business manager of this publication, going to the finance office at Party headquarters every two weeks.

Although the American Party did not affiliate with the Cominform when it was formed in 1947, Lautner testified that *For a Lasting Peace for a People's Democracy*, the official publication of the Communist Information Bureau in Moscow, was flown into the United States and supplied to functionaries by the Party.

In the 1941 National Training School Lautner claimed he made a study of the question of allegiance, and one of the conclusions he drew from *The History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union*, and from other sources was that in the event of war with

the Soviet Union, the primary allegiance of a Party member would be to the Soviet Union. Lautner also testified that in classes supervised by Ben Semonofsky, the New York County school director, he taught the difference between "just and unjust wars," and cited the defense of the Soviet Union as an example of a "just" war. He also taught that it would be the "task" of every Communist to support Russia against the United States in the event of war.

In short, Lautner testified that "essentially the Party follows the policies of the Soviet Government over here." Peaceful coexistence is merely "one of the tactics in the struggle against imperialism," and he had been taught that peaceful coexistence is really impossible.

Indicating the relationship of the American Party to Party organizations in other nations, Lautner testified that in the 1930's the Canadian Party drew upon American cadres for its development. The Cuban and Puerto Rican Parties were dependent upon the American organization for finances, and at least two people known to Lautner were sent to Cuba or to Puerto Rico to assist in Party organization.

The picture thus drawn of an interlocking group of national Parties, all owing ultimate allegiance to a common source, was of substantial importance in buttressing the Government's case that the American Communist Party was under Russian control. It was heavily relied upon by the Board in reaching its conclusion that the Party was subject to the registration provisions of the Internal Security Act.

Having been both an instructor and a student in the main Communist schools, and having had extensive experience as a Party functionary, Lautner was an ideal witness for explaining the meaning of Marxism-Leninism and its peculiar terminology. He could recall declarations of policy made by prominent Communist scholars and philosophers, declarations that were assertedly not fully understood by others.

Lautner testified that the true meaning of Marxism-Leninism was known only to "initiates" in the Party, those having a special indoctrination in Communist theory. Hence, the 1945 and 1948 constitutions, which apparently uphold the United States Constitution and prohibit force and violence, would not deceive the in-

sider, who would know that Marxism-Leninism is incompatible with such attitudes.

According to Lautner, the objective of the Party is to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat by means of a proletarian revolution. As defined in Lautner's testimony, the "proletarian revolution" is the "violent shattering of the bourgeois state." The Party is to decide when the conditions are proper for a revolution. Lautner claimed he was instructed that "this whole epoch since the turn of the century is ripe—there is a revolutionary situation."

Lautner's testimony about the teaching of the theory of "Exceptionalism" at the 1941 National Training School brought up the question of alternatives to forcible overthrow. According to Lautner, he was taught that this theory, which holds that some countries could make a gradual transition from capitalism to socialism, was not applicable to the United States. The point of Lautner's testimony was that the Communist leaders here anticipated that change would have to come about by violent means. Of course this theory is the cornerstone of the case the Government was trying to build.

#### IV

In most proceedings, and especially in the earlier trials, Lautner was given a vigorous and extensive cross-examination that covered nearly every conceivable motive for falsifying, tested his recollection of detail, and used his testimony as a platform for developing the defense's thesis.

A standard method of impeachment employed in all proceedings was to dwell at length upon Lautner's remuneration from the Government with the object of making his status as a professional witness manifest, and therefore suspect, to the trier-of-fact. Another method was to question Lautner about his failure to tell the truth on various occasions while he was a member of the Party—the annulment proceedings in which he perjured himself by claiming that his wife refused to become a Catholic, his marriage to a Jewish woman in which he apparently held himself out as a convert to Judaism, and his passport and army questionnaires in which he signed statements that he was not a member of a subversive organization and that he supported the Constitution of the United States.

Although the cross-examinations in most proceedings covered the same ground, emphasis and technique varied among cross-examiners, with different stress and varying degrees of success. The various modes of attack are illustrated by the cross-examination in the Los Angeles Smith Act trial. By questioning Lautner about his experiences in Detroit and West Virginia, the examiner attempted to point up the depressed social conditions of the 1930's and inferentially to establish the legitimate, nonviolent purposes of the Communist Party. Lautner was questioned about hunger strikes, violence of employers and police against the working class, and evictions of the poor in Detroit. He was asked about captive mines, company towns, and low wages in the mining towns of West Virginia, where he was the district organizer. Lautner's experience in West Virginia was used to show that the Party attempted to use open political methods there until it was suppressed by the Dies Committee. His cross-examiner forced Lautner to admit that the Party was listed in the phone book and was not a covert organization.

Lautner's failure to recollect events or writings that had favorable implications for the defense was contrasted with his familiarity with exact page references in certain texts during direct examination by the Government. The examiner thus quite dramatically questioned the genuineness of Lautner's memory on direct examination, creating the suspicion that he had been told what to say and that his testimony was biased.

Finally, a major portion of the cross-examination was concerned with impeaching Lautner's familiarity with Marxism-Leninism. Lautner's testimony on direct about instructions he gave and received and about the 1945 convention was used as a vehicle for bringing before the jury other Communist writings that tended to contradict the theme of Lautner's direct testimony or at least to indicate that its accuracy was confined to an earlier period or special circumstances.

The cross-examination in the New York "second-string" prosecution (*U.S. v. Flynn*) included all of the above techniques and represented the most comprehensive effort to destroy Lautner's testimony. For a period of 16 days attorneys questioned Lautner about all phases of his Party experience. One examiner spent days reviewing Communist theory, testing Lautner's recollection and consistency and at the same time conveying to the jury through

his questions (whether Lautner's answer was favorable or not) the impression that Communist theory was not incompatible with the peaceful establishment of socialism.

In the Hawaiian Smith Act prosecution (*U.S. v. Fujimoto*) the cross-examiner first concentrated upon discrediting Lautner by questioning him at length about the amount of pay and other benefits he received as a witness for the Government. The remainder of the examination was perhaps the most intensive and effective questioning Lautner ever underwent about his knowledge of Communist theory. Lautner was used as a sounding board for the defense's theory and at the same time made to appear as though he really had very little understanding of Communist principles.

Perhaps it was Lautner's fear that the cross-examiner was succeeding in discrediting his testimony that now and then led him to make embarrassing statements. At one point, having been led through a line of questioning designed to produce the response that Marxism-Leninism was not a dogmatic philosophy but rather a flexible science, Lautner was finally asked whether Marxism-Leninism could be understood by merely hearing someone read isolated excerpts from textbooks. Perhaps recalling the isolated passages favorable to the defense position with which his cross-examiners had taxed him, he unequivocally responded that this could not be done. Of course, counsel instantly reminded Lautner that the Government's case on direct had consisted mainly of having Lautner identify a text and then reading a selected passage from it to the jury.

The examination in the *Fujimoto* trial seriously impaired Lautner's testimony on direct concerning the revolutionary purpose and readiness of the Party. Lautner was forced to resort to *Foundations of Leninism*, a book written in 1920, to substantiate his allegation that revolutionary conditions existed in the post-1945 period. After attempting to digress and to evade the question by describing statements to the contrary as "tactical resolutions," Lautner was finally forced to admit that the "objective conditions" for revolution did not exist in the United States.

In the New York Board of Regents hearing, the primary weapon of the cross-examiner was the inconsistent statement. By 1953, Lautner had given several thousand pages of testimony. The cross-

examiner apparently selected the questionable areas and led Lautner into statements that conflicted with earlier responses. This hearing also illustrates another method of impeachment used more in later proceedings, Lautner's failure to mention certain subjects in earlier proceedings, particularly his failure to mention force and violence in the first Subversive Activities Control Board hearing, was pointed out to the trier-of-fact.

In the Philadelphia Smith Act trial (*U.S. v. Kuzma*), the cross-examination was directed mainly toward developing the peaceful tenor of Marxism-Leninism in the post-1945 period. Perhaps the most effective part of this examination was the demonstration, through Lautner's responses, that even if the Party advocated revolution, it had not been teaching revolutionary techniques and otherwise was not equipping its members for anything but an ideological struggle.

From *U.S. v. Kuzma* (1954) on, the examinations of Lautner fall into one or more of the above patterns. For the most part, the intensity of cross-examination seems to have abated measurably in later trials, perhaps because both direct testimony and cross-examination had by then been polished smooth by repetition, until little opportunity remained for surprise on either side.

## V

We shall now examine the processes by which proponents of Lautner's testimony sought to strengthen it and those by which his opponents sought to impeach it. We shall pay particular attention to areas of conflict that gave rise to situations reflecting favorably or unfavorably on the reliability and relevance of some of Lautner's statements.

At the outset of this examination, a cautionary word is in order. To avoid a distorting emphasis on the shortcomings of Lautner's testimony, it should be kept in mind that the material which is here compressed into a few pages is extracted from literally thousands of pages of testimony. Anyone familiar with the trial process knows that even the most honest, forthright, and accurate witness is likely to fall into occasional lapses and inconsistencies. If the human memory were a perfect recording instrument, the elaborate processes of examination and cross-examination would be to a

large extent unnecessary. Taken literally, the maxim *falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus* is an impossible counsel of perfection. The important question here is whether the limits of tolerable error have been exceeded. That judgment cannot be made on a mere quantitative count of errors.

There are not many areas in which the testimony of other witnesses covers the same events as Lautner's testimony. That is particularly true of testimony about the post-1945 situation, the area of Lautner's greatest utility to the Government. On the other hand, there is a great deal of overlap in testimony about Communist ideology. Here, perhaps the most important corroboration comes from the testimony of an objective expert. In the SACB proceeding against the Communist Party, the Government called Dr. Philip Mosely, Director of the Russian Institute and Professor of International Relations at Columbia University, a leading expert on Soviet Russia and Communist doctrine. He confirmed Lautner's evaluation of American Communist doctrine at many points, including the theory of "just and unjust wars" and the influence of the Duclos letter on the reconstitution of the Party.

A number of ex-Communist witnesses corroborated aspects of Lautner's testimony. The comparatively unimportant nature of this corroboration precludes the need for any detailed narration of its content. A few examples will suffice.

Paul Crouch testified that he knew Lautner and worked closely with him in the late 1930's: "We were both southern district organizers of the Party."

Joseph Kornfeder claimed that he conferred with Gerhardt Eisler, whom he knew as a Communist International representative, in Cleveland in 1933, thereby corroborating Lautner's testimony about Eisler. William Odell Nowell (who attended the Lenin School, was a delegate to the Seventh World Congress, and was an Educational Director of the Party until he left it in 1936) also testified that he knew Eisler as a Communist International representative under the name of Edwards in the 1930's. Nowell testified that the Auto Workers Union was affiliated with the Trade Union Unity League, which, in turn, was affiliated with the Profin-tern. He confirmed Lautner's testimony that Peters's Manual was in use in the Party up to 1935.

Manning Johnson (Party member from 1930 to 1939, member of the Central Committee from 1936 to 1938) testified that he was taught that in the event of war with Russia it would be the duty of a Communist to "bring about the defeat of the government of the U.S. and to secure a victory of the Red Army." He also identified Eisler as a Communist International representative having "Edwards" as an alias. Johnson described instructions he received in the 1930's about how the Party would function if it decided to go underground. The instructions he related parallel the instructions Lautner received when he began to work on the New York Party underground with respect to the organization of the membership and the use of printing presses and mimeograph machines. Johnson also agreed with Lautner about Williamson's positions in the early 1930's, Gil Green's position as head of the Young Communist League, and the positions of other prominent figures in the Communist organization.

Frank S. Meyer (British Communist who transferred to the American Party in 1934 and left it in 1946), an instructor at the Jefferson School of Social Science and a close friend of Budenz, also identified Eisler as Edwards. He also testified that Gil Green was head of the Young Communist League in 1934 and district organizer in the New York district in 1943.

It is obvious that very little of this testimony was significant. The identification of leaders of the open Communist Party could have been established by reference to published documents. That is true of much testimony given by former Communists, including Lautner himself. To make this point is not, of course, to attack the veracity of the witnesses.

Their veracity did not, however, go unchallenged. The testimony of two of these witnesses, Johnson and Crouch, as well as that of a third, Matusow, was stricken from the record of the SACB proceeding against the Communist Party at the direction of the Supreme Court after the Party made substantially uncontested allegations that these three had committed perjury in other proceedings relating to the issue of communism. It should be noted that the wholesale lying of which they were accused was of an entirely different order of magnitude from the occasional inconsistencies that are bound to enter the testimony of even the most scrupulously honest witness.

Another category of corroborative witness was the secret FBI agent. These people joined the Party at the instance of the FBI and, in some cases, managed to attain positions of some prominence. Their success may be a commentary on the almost pathetic eagerness of the Party to attract recruits.

Perhaps the most important of these witnesses was Mary Stalcup Markward, who served as an FBI agent within the Party from 1943 to 1950 and who was a member of the district board for Maryland. Her veracity was attacked in the SACB Communist Party proceeding. At the Supreme Court's direction, the Board re-examined her testimony at the same time as that of Crouch, Johnson, and Matusow, but found her to be a credible witness. Her testimony is not particularly startling. She agreed with Lautner about the Party's new orientation after the 1945 convention and agreed with his assessment of the importance of the Duclos letter in bringing it about. She also corroborated his testimony that propaganda material prepared by the Cominform was made available to Party functionaries, thereby lending further support to the Government's contention that the Party was under the domination of the International Communist movement directed from Soviet Russia.

In one instance, there is some corroboration for parts of Lautner's story from a defendant in a Smith Act prosecution. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, who took the stand in her own behalf, agreed that Lautner had been a close friend of hers and testified that she had been a witness to his wedding. She also corroborated his identification of certain well-known leaders of the open Party. None of this agreement, however reassuring it might be to one concerned about Lautner's general familiarity with the Communist Party, was in the slightest degree significant. Indeed, it tended to emphasize the relatively innocuous character of much of Lautner's information.

As might be expected, Lautner's testimony contradicted that of defendants in Smith Act prosecutions on the very few occasions when they covered the same ground. Unfortunately for comparative study, very few Smith Act defendants testified in their own behalf, and of those who did, fewer still had anything to say responsive to Lautner's testimony. The principal exception was Eliz-

abeth Gurley Flynn, who was perhaps the most forthright of the defendants in the various proceedings and who happened to be well acquainted with Lautner.

On several occasions, Flynn disagreed with Lautner about what the facts actually were and how they were to be interpreted. For example, she insisted that Lautner was never a member of the National Review Commission. On the contrary, she testified, Lautner as a close friend complained to her on several occasions between 1947 and 1949 about not being appointed to the National Commission, and asked her to intercede for him. On cross-examination, government counsel attempted to show that the chairmen of the state committees were invariably appointed to the corresponding committee at the national level. When asked about certain specific persons and their positions, Flynn began to balk about "naming names" and finally was held in contempt.

Flynn claimed that she did not know Gerhardt Eisler to be a Communist International representative (an almost incredible assertion) and did not know him under the name of Edwards. She denied that he ever attended National Committee meetings. She went further and averred that there had been no directive or instruction from the Soviet Party, to her knowledge, since 1938.

Lautner had testified that elaborate security precautions were taken at the 1949 convention to ensure that only delegates gained entrance to the convention floor, and that the press was confined to the foyer, where it was "fed press releases." Flynn, however, maintained that the convention was open to the public and the press. It would appear that on a matter of this sort the facts could easily have been ascertained, but so far as the record shows they were not.

Lautner had testified that Dennis initiated the proposal at the 1948 convention that the National Committee have only 13 members, the existing National Board with the addition of Miss Flynn. Flynn testified that the proposal was arrived at by the caucuses of the state delegations and announced by Dennis. The issue involved was, of course, whether the Party was authoritarian or democratic in practice.

Flynn claimed that Foster's book, *The Twilight of World Capitalism*, published in 1949, was printed in over 100,000 copies, given wide circulation, and used for instruction in Party classes. (The

book's thesis was that a united front coalition government could obtain majority support in the United States.) Lautner had denied hearing of the book while in the Party. Here again, the record fails to resolve a question whose answer should have been ascertainable.

The most important source for the impeachment of Lautner was Lautner himself. While the main outline of his story remained relatively unchanged throughout the many proceedings in which he testified, there are a number of instances in which a careful comparative reading reveals inconsistencies and intrinsic contradictions. While these instances do not bulk large overall, they tend to raise some question about Lautner's accuracy and sincerity as a witness and, in particular, about his readiness to fit his evidence to the exigencies of the moment. A sampling of seven instances is given below.

(1) One rather questionable area of testimony is Lautner's account of the period from June to August, 1945, the period immediately following his discharge from the Army, which includes the important event of the 1945 Party convention. In particular, his testimony about the Duclos article or letter raises doubts about his veracity. The letter was highly critical of Browder's deviations during 1944-45 and was important to the Government in establishing the revolutionary aspect of the Party purpose after 1945. In 1952, before the SACB, Lautner mentioned the letter as a "factor" in calling the 1945 convention. When asked where he first read the article, he replied: "It was the *World Telegram* or the *New York Times*, or both. And then a day after, or so, in the *Daily Worker*." In the *Flynn* (1952) case and in subsequent proceedings, Lautner claimed that he read the article at the direction of Williamson, the National Secretary of the Political Association, in the *Daily Worker*. In *U.S. v. Forest* (1954), Lautner was asked whether the letter was printed in papers other than the *Daily Worker*. Lautner responded: "I recall that it was published in the *World Telegram* but I didn't read it in the *World Telegram*; I heard about it."

The "directions" from Williamson were not mentioned in early testimony. However, in later proceedings these alleged directions were used to identify other incriminating documents. In the *Forest*

case, for example, Lautner remembered an incriminating letter written to the *Daily Worker* of July 9, 1945, by one of the defendants as an article he had read at Williamson's direction. In the 1952 SACB proceeding the opportunity and motive to mention Williamson's "directions" had been clearly present, but nothing was said on the subject. Lautner was asked what he did and where he went after his release from the Army. In response, he gave a meaningless account of meetings at Party headquarters with Dennis and Foster and then with Williamson and Stachel, in which the subject of his new assignment—whether or not he should be sent to Ohio as a functionary—was discussed. These meetings were alluded to in the *Flynn* case, but there Lautner placed them after the 1945 convention, which would have been too late for him to receive the directions which he claimed to have had. One suspects that the directions became a convenient device for introducing through Lautner contemporaneous documents that might not otherwise have been admissible.

Another conversation alleged to have taken place during this period takes on increasing significance as it is alluded to in subsequent hearings. Lautner described a meeting with Flynn about a week after his release from the service. Flynn allegedly discussed in detail the Party's attitude toward Browderism. The conversation was not mentioned in the SACB hearing. In 1952, in *U.S. v. Flynn*, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn denied having had such a conversation with Lautner. In the 1953 proceedings before the SACB against the Jefferson School of Social Science, Lautner added to his account of this meeting as given in the *Flynn* case, stating that Flynn also told him that the Party maintained a liaison between Browder and President Roosevelt.

Lautner also alleged that at the time of this meeting, about a week after his release from the Army, he had already been reassigned to work with the Hungarian National Bureau and the Nationality Groups Commission—another conflict with his testimony in *Flynn*, where he stated that the conversation with Party leaders about his assignment occurred after the 1945 convention.

(2) In most hearings, the subject of the 1943 *Schneiderman* decision was broadened upon cross-examination. In that case the Supreme Court reversed a decision that a Communist leader should be deported on the ground that it had not been shown that

the Communist Party was subversive. The authority of this decision was considerably weakened by subsequent cases. Nevertheless, the defense made much of its favorable implications and of Justice Murphy's comment that a tenable interpretation of Communist theory might be that force would be used only to counteract force. This was buttressed by reference to a declaration by William Z. Foster that Murphy's suggestion was an acceptable formulation of Communist theory.

In the California Smith Act trial (which, by an interesting coincidence, took its name from the same William Schneiderman who had been involved in the 1943 case), Lautner was questioned about his answer, "no," on an army questionnaire about participation in subversive activities. (The time in question was late 1942 or early 1943, prior to the favorable decision in the Supreme Court in *Schneiderman*.) Lautner stated: "... and at that time the Schneiderman case was pending in the U.S. Supreme Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court brought a decision on that case and, therefore, in all honesty and truthfulness I answered that question 'no.'"

But in other hearings, when the *Schneiderman* decision was brought up by defense counsel, Lautner seemed very reluctant to allow the defense to develop its favorable import. Although it had become a familiar line of cross-examination by 1955, when asked about it then, Lautner testified:

A. I have no recollection of it.

Q. At any time?

A. Well, I was in the Army. Once I heard in 19— I was in Africa when on the radio I heard something about some kind of Schneiderman decision. That is the only reason I have at the moment and that was . . .

Q. You have heard about the decision; is that a fair statement to say?

A. Well, I don't know what decision you are referring to. There may be more than one decision. I heard about one decision in 1943. I was in Africa—I was on detail.

Q. You have no recollection of having heard of this decision that I am talking about?

A. Well, what is this decision that you are talking about, Mr. Seltzer? You are talking about this decision. I don't know what this decision is.

After being confronted with his testimony in the *Flynn* case,

where he had admitted the importance of the decision to the Party, Lautner answered questions about it.

(3) In 1949 Foster wrote a book, *The Twilight of World Capitalism*, which has a number of passages that are consistent with the defense's interpretation of Communist theory. In the *Silverman* case (1955), Lautner testified that he received a copy of the book in his box at Party headquarters. Then, upon further questioning, he stated:

I may have read it . . . I think I did read it once. . . . *I did, and I took issue on certain things with Foster on that.* And in '50 he admitted he made mistakes.\*

On redirect Lautner stated: "All I recall, that I got the book and I drew certain conclusions myself from this book . . ."

But, in the *Flynn* case in 1952, Lautner had testified: "I don't recall that book, no." And then: "I have no recollection of reading the book, but I know about the book."

Q. Mr. Witness, I am asking you, is that a fact, that you personally disagreed with the position stated in that excerpt which I read from Foster's book?

A. Foster disagreed with Foster.

A. I don't take any position on what Foster says. I don't take a personal position on it.

A. I didn't take any position on it.

(4) A recurring topic for cross-examination was Lautner's initial conference with the FBI. Before the SACB, Lautner testified that the first "conference" lasted 15 minutes. Lautner stated he was told he would be contacted and a few days later he was called by telephone and went to the New York office of the Bureau. He didn't recall whether the conference was long, and when asked what transpired, he replied:

To tell the truth, there was a period at that time where the Federal Bureau of Investigation was not so sure about me because they knew that I was not an agent, and they had ideas that I was trying to tell them a story over there, that I was trying to give a story to the FBI and get into the good graces of the FBI. That suspicion was there for quite some time. If that is what you want to have, I don't know.

\* Italics mine.

In later proceedings Lautner did not mention his suspicion that the FBI did not trust him. In the *Flynn* and *Board of Regents* proceedings, Lautner stated that his first conference lasted four or five hours and continued the next day. When shown his testimony before the SACB, Lautner claimed that he considered the 15-minute session with the FBI to be a "meeting" and not a "conference." The cross-examiner then pointed out that the term "conference" was used in the question before the SACB.

(5) *The History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union* was always one of the main Government exhibits, and Lautner usually testified to his familiarity with it, prior to the introduction of passages from the book. In most proceedings, he mentioned the use of it in his 1946-48 classes. But in both the *Flynn* case and the *Silverman* case, he also mentioned giving seminars on the book: "I had one—about three or four seminars on the *History of the CPSU* in West Virginia." In *U.S. v. Fujimoto*, when the defense was attempting to bring out statements in the book consistent with its theory of the case, the following testimony was taken:

- A. I read the *History of the CPSU* but I have no recollection of that quotation.
- Q. Did you ever teach—
- A. *The History of the CPSU*, no.
- Q. No?
- A. No, not as a subject matter.
- Q. Did you ever use it in any course that you taught?
- A. Oh, yes. I used it but I used it in relation to the subject matter that I was teaching.

(6) In the *Frankfeld* case (1952), Lautner was asked about having prepared his testimony in advance in certain cases.

- Q. Isn't it true, Mr. Lautner, that the questions and answers that you have given here on direct examination were written out beforehand and gone over by you?
- A. That is not correct. The testimony that I have given here is my testimony.
- Q. But were these questions and answers written out beforehand?
- A. No. That is not true.

But in the *Flynn* case (1952), he testified as follows:

- Q. In the Baltimore case (*Frankfeld*), in the Washington case, and in the California case, isn't it true that the questions put to you by the

attorney, and the answers you gave were written out beforehand? That is the only question I am putting to you, Mr. Lautner.

- A. Yes.
- Q. That is true?
- A. Yes, in consultation with the attorney based on my testimony.

(7) In his extensive testimony on theoretical questions, Lautner was at times inconsistent and even contradictory. For example, in *U.S. v. Kuzma* (1954), he testified as follows regarding Communist theory:

- Q. Has there been any occasion since June 1945, when the Communist Party has said that there were objective conditions for a revolutionary situation?
- A. Well, the Communist Party says, and I thought, and I was taught, too, that this whole epoch since the turn of the century is ripe—there is a revolutionary situation. Stalin in his *Foundations* defines it. I can find it for you.

But in *U.S. v. Fujimoto* (1952), he had answered the same question differently:

- Q. Let me ask you this: Can you tell me at any time since June 1945, when there have been objective conditions in the United States of America which the Communist Party have said constitute the objective conditions for a revolutionary situation?
- A. At this moment I cannot recall. No, I don't think objective conditions prevailed since or did—
- Q. Your answer is then, that no such objective conditions prevailed since June 1935.
- A. That is right.
- Q. '45 rather.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Is that right?
- A. Yes.

In *Kuzma* when this contradiction was pointed out, Lautner explained, a little lamely, that his answer in *Fujimoto* was confined to the United States, whereas in *Kuzma* it referred to the world situation.

Again, in *U.S. v. Kuzma* (1954), he was asked:

- Q. Now at the bakers and furriers school didn't you teach there that war between the United States and the Soviet Union was not inevitable?
- A. I didn't teach that.



But to the same question in the *Flynn* case in 1952, he had answered:

- Q. All right, didn't you teach your classes that the Communist Party took the position that a war between the United States and the Soviet Union was not inevitable?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And didn't you teach your class that the Communist Party took the position that war between the United States and the Soviet Union could be avoided?
- A. Yes, that is correct.

Lautner reconciled this testimony by stating that this line was "tactical" and the question was "tricky."

Before the Board of Regents of the State of New York, in 1953, the following exchange took place:

- Q. As a matter of fact, were you not specifically taught during your membership in the Communist Party, not to memorize passages and propositions from Marxist-Leninist writings?
- A. That is not true, also.

But, again in the *Flynn* case, in 1952, Lautner had answered:

- Q. Let us confine our attention now to the writings of Lenin, the selected works, collected works, the Little Lenin Library. When you studied these writings of Lenin, you were taught not to learn by heart certain isolated passages and propositions from Marxism-Leninism, were you not?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. Were you not taught, Mr. Witness, that no passage from Marxist-Leninist writings can apply to any and all situations?
- A. I was taught that there is a certain— There is a basic—

- A. I can't answer that question yes or no. What I was taught—
- Q. You were also taught not to apply certain passages to any and all situations, isn't that right?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. You were taught that no passage can apply to any and all situations, weren't you?
- A. That is correct.

On another question, he answered the Board of Regents as follows:

- Q. And were you not taught, Mr. Witness, that the authority of the Communist Party cannot be sustained by violence but only by the confidence of the working class?

- A. Well, once a dictatorship of the proletariat is established and the Party is the ruling party—
- Q. Please, Mr. Witness.
- A. Not in those words.
- Q. You weren't?
- A. No. Not in those words.

In the *Fujimoto* case the previous year, he had not been reluctant in answering:

- Q. And according to *what you were taught*, did he say in that book that the authority of the Party is sustained not by violence but by the confidence of the working class?
- A. That is what Stalin said, yes.
- Q. And did he say that the confidence of the working class in the Communist Party is not gained by violence, because violence would only kill it, did he say that?
- A. Yes.

All of these instances of inconsistency have one thing in common. They show a progressive hardening, from early to later proceedings, in Lautner's attitude toward his former comrades. He became more and more reluctant to say anything that might conceivably be construed as helping them.

One result of repeating testimony on several occasions is that inconsistencies develop from one occasion to the next, increasing the area of exposure to effective cross-examination. We have noted some instances of this tendency in Lautner's testimony. But there is another result. As the witness gains some practical experience in what will be asked of him, his testimony about events and circumstances described in earlier hearings becomes refined and expanded. Points on which he has been subjected to challenge are modified to disarm attack; points that were not stated categorically tend to harden into fixed positions and to carry greater impact. Again, this is a natural tendency to which all witnesses are probably subject to some extent. The question is whether the variations remain within tolerable limits. Lautner testified with increasing self-assurance and positiveness as he retold his experiences. Testimony that at first seemed ambiguous or aimless later became sharp and forceful. In the 1952 SACB proceeding against the American Communist Party, for example, Lautner was ques-

tioned about the purpose of the Hungarian National Training School. He responded: "The purpose was . . . to bring together from the country as a whole promising young Party members and put them through a Party education and to develop Party functionaries out of them." In 1955, Lautner's response to the same question was: "This school had one purpose in mind, and it was so stated: to develop out of the student body professional revolutionaries for the coming period."

Here are three more examples of the evolution of Lautner's testimony.

(1) Before the SACB in 1952, Lautner testified that in his classes the Program of the Communist International "was referred to. It was not used. It was referred to as reference material." Three years later, in *U.S. v. Forest*, Lautner volunteered: "I taught the Program of the Communist International." In the same year when asked about this document in *U.S. v. Silverman*, Lautner claimed it was used "as the basic Stalinist program around which Stalin consolidated his leadership and eliminated all the opportunists."

(2) The colorful term "Aesopian" had been used repeatedly by Budenz in his testimony about the 1945 and 1948 constitutions. Lautner had frequently interpreted the same documents as Budenz, but generally had referred to them as "self-serving." In 1955, however, Lautner used Budenz's characterization in describing the 1948 constitution, and defined the historical meaning of the term for the edification of the jury.

(3) The objectives and policy of the Party were important to the Government's case before the SACB, and Lautner was provided with a number of opportunities to describe them. Defense counsel in later proceedings made much of the fact that despite his voluminous testimony, he never once used the expression "force and violence." However, later testimony abounded with the expression. For example, in *U.S. v. Forest* (1954), Lautner described the objectives of the Party as "the destruction by force and violence of capitalism and its government as speedily as conditions will permit in the name of the working class led by the Communist Party in alliance with the sections of the Negro people and the petty bourgeoisie."

What may be a negative aspect of Lautner's evolution as a witness is his relative unresponsiveness, either through lack of

candor or through faulty recollection, to cross-examiners' questions, which, if answered directly, would favor the defense position or impair his usefulness to the Government. Again, this tendency is not an unnatural one; but in proceedings where so much was at stake it is somewhat disturbing to find evidence that a witness had made the cause in which he testified so strongly his own that he seemed, on occasion, to have abandoned the role of witness for that of advocate.

For example, although Lautner elsewhere claimed that his principal duty was to build the influence of the Communist Party with the United Mine Workers in West Virginia from 1936 to 1940, when asked on cross-examination in the Los Angeles case (1952) whether coal miners' wages were very low, Lautner responded: "I don't know. I did not work in the coal mines. I didn't get any paycheck and I don't know. How would I know what the wages were?"

Since the Government's theory was that the 1948 constitution's clause purporting to proscribe force and violence was nothing but window-dressing inserted in the constitution because of the *Dennis* indictments, the presence of the same provision in the 1938 constitution (as amended up to 1942) was a significant piece of evidence for the defense. Lautner, when questioned about this constitution, claimed to have no recollection of it, even though he was a delegate from West Virginia to the convention that adopted it.

While Chairman of the State Review Commission in New York, Lautner apparently wrote a report about informers in which he said: "Persons who were morally corrupt or suspected of moral corruption were likely candidates for FBI informers." This report was an understandably popular topic for cross-examiners, but Lautner would not recall it.

After having obtained the court's assistance in the attempt to get Lautner to answer, defense counsel asked Lautner: "Is it not true that you knew generally that trade unionists kept their membership secret in many instances because they were fearful they would be discharged if their membership in trade unions was known?" Despite his experience in West Virginia in the late 1930's and his work in Detroit in 1930 where he claimed he "recruited some (workers) who worked in the Ford Plant, who are working

there right now," Lautner's answer to this question was: "I give you an answer, an answer with a little explanation because a 'yes' or 'no' doesn't answer this particular question that you raise because I am speaking now—you asked me to speak as to my knowledge, what do I know about persecution in the trade union movement and obviously—"

In addition to these illustrations of the evolution of Lautner's testimony, there are many instances of his having given a definite response in one proceeding but modifying, qualifying, or claiming not to remember the response in a later proceeding.

## VI

It has become something of a commonplace to assert that informers' testimony is highly suspect in general and that this is especially true of the testimony of ex-Communists. Such generalizations about types of witnesses are not very useful. Ultimately, the testimony of a witness must stand or fall on its own merits. Nevertheless, there are problems that arise when the testimony of a particular witness who happens to be an "informer" is being evaluated. It may be a useful exercise to consider some of these problems as they apply to Lautner's testimony, if only to demonstrate the danger of unsupported generalizations on the subject.

First, there is the general issue of motive for falsification. It seems generally true that former Communists experience a strong reaction against their old allegiance and, in many cases, manifest an intense desire to do everything they can to abjure it. One also suspects that many former Communists abjure one set of absolutes in favor of another, that what formerly was the purest white becomes for them the deepest black, and that this tendency renders their account of the past suspect. In Lautner's case, notwithstanding the unpleasant nature of his expulsion from the Party, there is little to suggest any such motive for falsification. Neither the form nor the content of what he had to say exhibits the zeal of the reformed sinner.

It is true that Lautner profited financially from his testimony. Indeed, his career as a consultant to the Department of Justice appears to have been considerably more lucrative than his work as a Party functionary. It may be surmised that he was aware that this source of wealth might quickly dry up if his testimony was not helpful, and that this gave him a motive to see that it was.

This factor is an imponderable one and could be factually evaluated only if we had available transcriptions of Lautner's earliest interviews with the Justice Department.

He may have had other motives for giving false testimony. As a participant in what has now been branded as unlawful conspiracy, Lautner could himself have been subjected to criminal penalties, although the statute of limitations barred his prosecution by 1953, three years after his withdrawal from the conspiracy. And if, as seems possible, he falsified his naturalization papers in some material respect, he may still be liable to denaturalization and deportation.

Motive for falsification aside, there are other problems. One is that Lautner may not have been what he represented himself as having been, a bona fide Communist. In several of the earlier proceedings, defense counsel attempted to establish that Lautner might have been an FBI informer, or at any rate, that he might have lost faith some time before he left the Party. The evidence supporting this assertion is tenuous and need not be recounted at length. It comes down to what may be the rather suspicious circumstances under which Lautner retained certain bits of documentary evidence about his activities in the Party, coupled with extremely vague intimations that he may have been a "Titoist" or some other species of deviationist during a portion of his connection with the Party.

In many of the proceedings, counsel intimated that much of Lautner's knowledge may have come from sources other than his memory. Lautner denied having read the transcripts of this testimony. But as a consultant to the Department of Justice, he claimed to have done research in preparation for testifying. How far his subconscious may have merged later study with earlier memory is an interesting psychological question. Lautner admitted having one aid to his memory: in a number of the Smith Act trials—*Flynn, Frankfeld, Schneiderman, and Silverman*—and before the Subversive Activities Control Board and the Board of Regents—his questions and answers were written out beforehand by the attorney.

## VII

A study of a witness's testimony that is focused primarily upon intrinsic consistency, as this one necessarily has been, seems fore-

doomed to be indecisive. Many events and conversations must be taken as uncontradicted, particularly in the Smith Act trials, since those who were in a position to affirm or deny did not (with the notable exception of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn) take the stand in their own behalf. Even where there is a conflict in testimony about the same event, one is left with the choice between one memory and another, between a biased professional witness and a biased Communist defendant.

Furthermore, the line of inquiry is limited by the nature of the fact-finding process and the particular exigencies of the problem under scrutiny. Areas of testimony that arouse suspicions in one proceeding may not be followed up in another. Extrinsic evidence is, for the most part, not available, and the rules of evidence further restrict one's perspective. Since the scope of direct examination controls what can be inquired into on cross-examination, instances which have embarrassed the witness in one proceeding may be avoided in another.

As we move from fact to theory, the problem is compounded. It is most difficult to evaluate Lautner's testimony about Communist theory, since the ultimate issue is itself cloudy. Were it clear, Lautner's testimony could easily be evaluated; but his testimony would then be unnecessary. Since the over-all issue in these proceedings was the "true" attitude of the Communist Party, Lautner's testimony must be accepted or rejected ultimately on the basis of one's own evaluation of the documentary evidence about Communist doctrine. It seems clear that "force and violence" is involved in Communist theory, but force and violence when? Only as a means of preventing an oppressive minority from perpetuating itself, as the Party contended, or as an inevitable step in the Communist accession to power, as the Government maintained?

The ultimate question is: What did the term "Marxism-Leninism" mean to those who were accused of having embraced the doctrine? The term comprehends the whole tangled skein of Communist theory, as expounded by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, and other party classicists. In defining the term, Lautner testified that Communist theory looks to the use of "force and violence" to "smash the bourgeois state" and to establish the "dictatorship of the proletariat." It was the use of the term "Marxism-Leninism" in the 1945 constitution that was the basis of Lautner's characteri-

zation of the constitution as misleading insofar as it appeared to eschew force and violence. But elaboration of the connotations of "Marxism-Leninism" leads into a quagmire of esoteric terminology.

Lautner relied heavily on his training and experience in giving answers that substantiated the Government's view of the nature of Communism. His knowledge of the literature from attendance at schools, presence at national conventions, teaching activities, and discussions with leading Party functionaries served as the basis for introducing into the record the real case against Communism—the horde of documentary exhibits, including classic texts, pamphlets, and newspaper articles published over many decades and emanating from diverse sources. Excerpts from these documents were read into evidence by government attorneys. Other excerpts were read by defense attorneys. The ultimate problem of judgment is not unlike that involved in determining whether a book is "obscene," and may be just as inherently difficult, if not impossible, to resolve. Judgment about fact becomes so intertwined with fact that it is impossible to say where one begins and the other leaves off.

If those who led the Communist Party believed in and advocated the overthrow of the Government by force and violence at the first opportunity of success, as the jury verdicts in the various Smith Act cases must have concluded they did, then the great bulk of Lautner's testimony is consistent with the truth and perhaps overly conservative at times. If, on the other hand, those same leaders advocated forcible overthrow if and only if the proponents of the existing order would themselves resort to force to prevent peaceful change, then Lautner at least exaggerated and perhaps told knowing falsehoods. And if neither of those two polar positions represents the "true" nature of American communism, Lautner is guilty of oversimplification, a vice which may well have been inherent in the nature of these proceedings.

Since much of Lautner's testimony concerned verifiable (although unverified) facts, it seems that the inconsistencies and other deficiencies in his testimony culled from the many thousands of pages in which that testimony has been reproduced may well be trivial and insignificant. In that sense, the conclusion must be reached on a fair appraisal that he is a "reliable" witness.

On balance, however, a favorable judgment as to Lautner's "reliability" must be put in proper perspective. Reliability does not automatically ensure significance. What the proceedings in which Lautner played so large a role sought to resolve were large and complicated questions about the nature of American communism. The forms in which these questions were cast for purposes of legal fact-finding were themselves somewhat oversimplified. The Smith Act asks for a determination whether certain individuals advocated the "duty, necessity, desirability, or propriety of overthrowing or destroying the government . . . by force or violence." The Internal Security Act requires a finder-of-fact to say whether an organization is "substantially directed, dominated, or controlled by the foreign government or foreign organization controlling the world Communist movement." These questions do not evoke the full complexity of motives and objectives animating the Communist movement over time. But, oversimplified as they are, these questions place a heavy burden on fact-finding processes, involving as they do an inquiry into beliefs and attitudes that do not necessarily manifest themselves in overt action and whose evolution can be understood only by recapitulating decades of history.

Legal fact-finding processes simply are not equal to the demands placed upon them by these proceedings. Edmund Burke's famous remark about the difficulty of indicting a whole nation suggests the corollary that legal processes are not intended for the job of trying a chapter of history. The judgmental processes involved in ascertaining the nature of the American Communist movement and in understanding those who were engaged in it pose, ultimately, a task for the historian rather than for the trier-of-fact.

## 6 • CONCLUSION

We are back at the starting-point of this inquiry. What can we say about the efficacy of official fact-finding processes in the light of these accounts of the testimony of four ex-Communist witnesses? Has the operation of the processes under scrutiny afforded a basis for even a fragmentary set of conclusions about the witnesses and their stories? I think that my conclusions on this score are due the reader, even though it is the process by which the testimony has been elicited rather than its credibility that is primarily at stake here. Therefore, I shall start this summing-up with some brief comments on the witnesses and their testimony.

No aspect of any of these witnesses' stories has been more fully explored or more searchingly tested than the testimony of Whitaker Chambers as it refers to Alger Hiss. Nor has there often been, by the standards of the litigation process, more sweeping vindication for a witness. The jury had to believe either Hiss or Chambers, not on marginal details but in the large. Further, in order to believe Chambers, it had to reject all reasonable doubts in favor of Hiss. This it did. Nothing in the transcript of the trials or in what took place after the trials leads me to think that the jury was unjustified in reaching the conclusion that it did. Absent further information of a kind we are not likely to get, it seems to me that the suspension of disbelief in which so many engaged for so long ought to be abandoned.

That said, the case remains enigmatic in its larger aspects. As I have pointed out, much testimony might be compelled that would bear materially on the question of the extent and degree

of Hiss's Communist affiliations. And other aspects of Chambers's story that remain largely uncorroborated, notably his denunciation of Harry Dexter White, would likewise be clarified by further examination of other witnesses. Much material exists to support an analysis of the Harry Dexter White case. But I doubt that any very firm conclusions could be reached without the development of substantially more evidence than is now in the public record.

Finally, there is the question of Chambers's demeanor as a witness. His testimony strikes me as being on the surface far more candid, far less evasive and less defensive, than that of any of the other witnesses. This, perhaps, is not too surprising. Chambers was obviously a man of great intelligence and sensitivity, with a gift of self-expression. Whether that gift may not sometimes have been used to mask a less than candid response is a troubling question. What seems clear is that his forensic talents glittered in the dramatic atmosphere of the Hiss trials. Whether or not he was invariably a truthful witness—whether or not his dramatic capacity and his lively sense of self-protection may at times have got the better of accurate recollection—Chambers emerges, for me at least, as a largely convincing witness.

By contrast, no witness's story is better calculated to inspire mistrust or disbelief than Elizabeth Bentley's. The extravagance of her claims about her espionage contacts, the vagueness of her testimony about the content of the secret material that she allegedly received, the absence of corroboration for most of her story, and, above all, her evasiveness as a witness, all combine to raise serious doubts about her reliability. And yet, hers is clearly no story invented out of whole cloth.

Her relationship with Colos, who allegedly masterminded her espionage work, is amply corroborated, as is the fact of her relationship with Remington and several others of the supposed contacts. Moreover, most of her contacts had ideological affiliations that might well have predisposed them to cooperate with her. Finally, the refusal of many of those whom she accused to come forward with denials or explanations, though it is inconclusive, must weigh heavily in any judgment formed on the basis of a record as indeterminate as the present one.

If it were not for Miss Bentley's exploitation of her experience

for profit, I would be a good deal less skeptical about much of her testimony. But the tendency in her book to embroider a narrative for dramatic effect quickens one's suspicions that the same tendency may exist in her sworn testimony. As I have pointed out, those suspicions are often confirmed. Far more than the testimony of Whittaker Chambers, Elizabeth Bentley's testimony seems to require that a good deal more evidence be adduced before firm conclusions can be formed: evidence from persons who have so far remained silent, evidence from the investigative files of the FBI.

If one accepts the main outlines of Miss Bentley's story, there remains the question of what the people with whom she was in contact thought they were doing. In the case of the Silvermasters and Ullmann, it is tolerably clear that if the facts were at all as Miss Bentley asserted they were, her contacts must have known that their activity was designed to transmit official secrets to a foreign power. But that is not necessarily true of the other participants in the alleged Silvermaster ring, most of whom did not, by Miss Bentley's own admission, know her. Nor is it necessarily true of some of her individual contacts, such as Redmont, Miller, and Lee. The range of possibilities is wide, and we shall probably never know just where along the spectrum from knowing acts of espionage to innocent indiscretion the truth lies.

The Remington case afforded the only opportunity for an exhaustive cross-examination of Miss Bentley. That opportunity was not fully utilized, both for reasons of trial tactics and because of the unavailability of potentially impeaching material. Her questioning before Congressional committees was hardly calculated to test her credibility.

In lawyers' terms, I would say that Miss Bentley has made out a *prima facie* case, that the burden of going forward is on those who would disprove her account, but that she is not entitled to a directed verdict in her favor.

As a commentator on Communist aims and objectives Budenz is impressive, although we may doubt that the Party was ever quite as monolithic as he portrayed it. That doubt, however, is created more by the views of historians who have studied the American Communist Party than it is by anything contained in the record of Budenz's numerous examinations and cross-examinations.

Indeed, it may be fairly observed that proceedings of the kind involved in this study are less well suited for providing any kind of basis for conclusions about general Communist aims and objectives, or about the philosophical underpinning of American Communism, than they are for demonstrating what did or did not happen on any given occasion.

When it comes to the delineation of facts, the testimony of Budenz is, in the main, of a hearsay nature. We cannot know how well he remembers what he was told or how accurate it was in the first place. The testimony of other ex-Party members suggests that he may have exaggerated his position in Party councils. It is accordingly difficult to evaluate his "official reports" with the slender information we have.

In his examination by the hostile Tydings Committee he was evasive when pressed. His testimony about Lattimore was particularly vulnerable. Why had he not accused Lattimore sooner, particularly when occasions on which he might appropriately have done so were not lacking? When pressed on that matter, he tended to filibuster rather than to answer directly. That is not in itself an indication of unreliability, but it suggests an unwillingness to admit the possibility of mistake, a trait that can quite unconsciously influence a witness's recollection.

More important than any of these considerations is the question suggested at the end of the chapter on Budenz's testimony: To what extent has he allowed his judgment of who is and who is not a Communist to be shaped by his own views of desirable public policy? One wonders how many of Budenz's fellow-travelers are people who simply found themselves in the same place at the same time on errands of their own. No doubts on this score seem to have plagued Budenz, or, for the most part, his interrogators.

John Lautner's workmanlike role in the Communist movement is echoed in his stolid, pedantic, and relatively unshakable testimony. To be sure, he has been tripped up on more than one occasion. He has also been evasive, militantly self-justifying, and all the other things one might expect of a man who, late in life, finds himself in the unenviable position of repudiating his life's work. Yet he gives the over-all impression of close familiarity with the Party's ideology and, more important, with the day-to-day details of its operation.

Strongly in Lautner's favor as a witness is the fact that unlike the other three, he has not carved out an extra-testimonial career as an ex-Communist. He has been paid, and paid well, for his testimony. But he has not had the additional impetus to fabricate that comes from the creation of a public image that must constantly be refurbished by yet another round of revelations.

The frequent repetition of Lautner's story gave rise, as we have seen, to a number of inconsistencies. It also resulted in opportunities for him to sharpen the lines of his testimony, to supply point where it had previously been lacking. But viewed in the total context of his testimony, the inconsistencies appear relatively minor, and the net impression is of a conscientious effort to recall the details of his past.

As I have suggested, the questionable areas in the testimony of the ex-Communist witnesses relate mainly to detailed assertions of fact that are difficult, if not impossible, to verify on the basis of the available evidence. There is enough corroborative testimony and enough extrinsic evidence to sustain acceptance of the main outlines of the story told by each of the witnesses. However, it seems obvious that firm conclusions about the reliability of the witnesses should not be ventured on the basis of the present public record without a systematic examination of the shortcomings of the processes used to elicit and test the evidence.

The residual doubts may not be very important in the total context of what these witnesses have said. Certainly there has been little in the way of established disproof. But a common thread of attitude and personality runs through all of the testimony examined, which restrains a cautious observer from giving it wholehearted credence. All four of these witnesses, to say nothing of the many other ex-Communists whose testimony has been peripherally examined, appear to have forsaken one set of absolutes for another. The urge for self-vindication appears to be so strong that anyone who is not with them must necessarily be against them. This tendency is most noticeable in Budenz's case, but it afflicts the others as well. Then there is the troublesome matter of pecuniary motive. All these witnesses have admittedly profited financially from their roles as denouncers of the hated Communist conspiracy. While they cannot be blamed for wanting to salvage what they could from the wreckage of their lives, their interest in being "useful"

witnesses is obvious. And "useful" has meant, all too often, useful to the immediate political purposes of their interrogators. It would be surprising if this interest did not result in exaggerations and even in occasional distortions.

The almost feverish pursuit of publicity that surrounded the development of so much of this testimony has undoubtedly contributed to the unsatisfactory state of the record. We have observed in detail instances in which that was so. Moreover, the tendentious nature of all the proceedings, which we shall examine in a moment, imposed additional limitations on the development of the facts. Hence, to the extent that the testimony of these witnesses leaves doubts unresolved, the witnesses, those whom they accused, and their interrogators may all have been in varying degrees the victims of a set of processes that are generally unsatisfactory for dealing with an important social problem.

If the four preceding chapters have not lent some support to my unenthusiastic appraisal of these processes, further statements to the same effect at this point will surely be fruitless. Nonetheless, it may be useful to point out systematically the shortcomings reflected in the analysis of specific testimony.

A question that must first be answered is: "shortcomings" viewed from what perspective? Is a perjury trial an adequate vehicle for determining whether X lied or told the truth on a given occasion? I think it is, or at any rate I am not prepared to suggest a better one. Is a Congressional investigation an adequate vehicle for arousing public opinion? Quite obviously it is, especially with the help of modern mass communications, as is shown by the rise and fall of Senator McCarthy. Is that same Congressional investigation an adequate vehicle for discovering the facts about an alleged danger and placing them before the public? Here the answer, based on the results of this study, must be No. It is from the perspective of official fact-finding as a basis for public enlightenment—and hence, if democratic theory has any merit, as a basis for rational action—that the processes here examined fall short.

If we were looking at the situation as of 1945 or 1946, when it was becoming apparent that American Communism was shedding all pretense of being a native radical movement and that our Government and other public institutions had been infiltrated by Communists, what should we be interested in knowing? We

should presumably be interested in getting as coherent an account as possible of the nature of the Communist movement and the extent of Communist infiltration—by whom it was carried on, what they did, what their objectives were. Our job, in short, would be what we have traditionally regarded as the historian's job: to find out, in Ranke's classic phrase, *wie es eigentlich gewesen*—how it really happened. But compiling this history properly and swiftly would require the use of tools not in the possession of any historian, or of any private person. If it were to be done, it would have to be done by public agencies, armed with the power to compel people to tell what they knew and equipped to test and evaluate what they were told; and it would have to be done in an objective spirit of inquiry, without rancor and without a thought to gaining present political advantage by capitalizing on past blunders.

It was not done. Competing pressures of policy and the lack of a properly equipped and sufficiently disinterested organ of inquiry combined to frustrate the goal. What institutional factors caused this failure? Can we do better in the future? These are the questions to which the rest of this chapter is devoted.

## II

We have been dealing with testimony developed, in the main, in three types of proceedings: Congressional investigations, administrative hearings, and court trials. In the next few pages, I shall say something about the advantages and disadvantages of each of these vehicles for eliciting and testing the stories of ex-Communist witnesses.

Congressional investigation has two great advantages: it is open-ended and it is nonadversary. Its scope is limited only by its constitutive authorization, which usually amounts to no limitation at all. That scope is vastly useful in developing testimony as a coherent whole, untrammelled by considerations of relevancy or materiality to a predetermined subject matter. It is no accident that the main outlines of a witness's story are usually to be found in the transcripts of a Congressional investigation rather than in the records of an administrative or judicial hearing. Compare, for example, Elizabeth Bentley's testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1948 with her testimony in the Remington case. The Committee record, for all its meanderings,



contains the essence of her entire story, or at least makes it available to the reader who is willing to perform a certain amount of carpentry on it. The record of the Remington trial, by contrast, is intelligible only to one who is already familiar with the contours of Miss Bentley's story.

The other great advantage of the Congressional inquiry is that it takes place, at least in theory, in a nonadversary setting. Since winning or losing "the case" is not immediately at stake, witnesses are likely to speak more freely. To be sure, a witness may become a trifle slipshod when there is no formal cross-examination, but an informal cross-examination may be just as serviceable, as it was, for example, in the questioning of Budenz by the Tydings Committee and its counsel. In the ideal Congressional inquiry, the witness will be pressed without being bullied or intimidated. He will be allowed to tell his story in his own way, without the interruptions and altercations that mark a hotly contested trial.

These advantages, while theoretically impressive, are in practice rarely exploited to their full extent, and are in any event more than offset by several crippling disadvantages. Chief among these are politics and publicity. We have traced examples of both, and of their interplay; the point is too obvious to require extended comment. As long as the Congressional inquiry serves as an instrument of politics, a means by which political points are won and lost, its utility as a fact-finding institution in a highly charged context is bound to be sharply limited.

Less obvious but equally disadvantageous is the flimsy structure of the typical investigation. The committee members are busy men. They are forever having to leave the hearing room to go to the floor of the House or the Senate, or to some other, equally pressing committee meeting. Members wander in and out. The presiding officer may change several times during a single session. Sometimes the new man does not quite catch the drift of what has gone before. The whole business is apt to be quite unsystematic. The cure for all this is supposed to be the committee staff, particularly the committee counsel. But, as we have seen, staff members are not always adequately prepared. And the caliber of personnel, while outstanding in some cases, often leaves something to be desired.

Deficiencies in the organization and quality of staff personnel are in theory remediable, although there are undoubtedly limits to what can practically be done in these respects. For one thing staff positions on Congressional committees are an important form of patronage, and it is Utopian to suppose that this advantage will ever be voluntarily foregone. But even if we assume that improvement is possible, the staff is still the servant of the committee members. However fair-minded and competent staff members may be, they are powerless to prevent their masters from using the investigative process as a political platform.

The same observation applies to the structure of committee hearings. There is a fuzziness and lack of focus in all but the most firmly guided Congressional hearings that is perhaps the inevitable concomitant of their free-ranging and flexible character. More careful preparation for the hearing may sometimes mitigate this difficulty, but rarely overcomes it; an able counsel may preserve his sense of order, but he must defer to the Committee's sense of the priorities of the moment. Particularly when an inquiry lasts several weeks or longer, the place of the individual pieces in the total composition is often obscure. Loose ends have a tendency not to get tied up. A witness says that he will supply certain information later. Later turns out to be never. Or a suggestion is made that certain rebuttal testimony be called. Everyone agrees that it should be called, and then nothing more is heard about it. Names are tossed out, never to reappear. Confusion becomes the governing principle. The investigative proceeding becomes merely a demonstrative proceeding, and not a very good one at that. Instead of serving as a means for digging out evidence, evaluating it and reaching reasoned conclusions, the Congressional investigation in this context has shown itself to be just a vehicle for placing "facts" in the record without any real effort to ascertain either their probative value or their significance.

Palliatives for all this have often been suggested, ranging from elaborate codes designed to regulate every aspect of committee behavior to general admonitions to be fair. None of them answers the basic objection that the Congressional investigation is potentially an instrument of political strategy, and that it takes only one determined man to convert the potentiality to fact. There is much force in Walter Lippmann's observation that the problem "is not

one which is likely to be solved by an ingenious idea." Beyond that, it may be observed that increased competence on the interrogators' part is also necessary, and that more fairness does not automatically bring with it increased competence.

The principal virtue of the court trial, viewed from the standpoint of objective fact-finding, is the opportunity it affords to test the credibility of witnesses. At its best, in the hands of able and well-prepared counsel, cross-examination becomes the great engine for the discovery of truth that Wigmore termed it. But it is not often seen at its best in the trials we have reviewed. And its necessary concentration on one detail at a time leaves the impression of a pile of tiny colored stones that no one has bothered to fit into a mosaic.

Even when the issue is as comparatively narrow as the question of perjury in the Hiss and Remington cases, the ramifications of fact tend to sprawl untidily. In the Smith Act proceedings, where it sometimes seems that history itself is on trial, one is left with the overwhelming impression that the trial process is simply not equal to the demands being made of it.

Of course, the trial is not expected to produce neatly done up bundles of history. But our inquiry is limited to its efficacy as a device for establishing the facts about one or another aspect of the Communist conspiracy. There it plainly falls short. The adversary process simply is not well adapted to the intelligible sequential ordering of complex factual data. The criminal trial is not designed for that purpose and cannot be expected to achieve it. Viewed as an instrument of fact-finding, it always falls into one of two difficulties: either it leaves out too much to be informative or it includes too much to be orderly.

What then of the administrative inquiry, that great compromise between the trial and the legislative investigation? The answer must turn on what is being inquired into. There are undoubtedly many theoretical advantages to the use of the administrative process for the development of complex factual issues. These advantages are often realized in practice, as in rate or route proceedings in regulated industries, where the hybrid legislative-judicial hearing is plainly superior to either of its sources. But the efficacy of

the administrative proceeding depends on the focus given it by its constitutive authorization.

The principal use to which the administrative proceeding has been put in the context of the Communist issue is the determination, under the Internal Security Act, of whether certain organizations are Communist-dominated. The hundreds of thousands of pages accumulated by the Subversive Activities Control Board have their uses, but they do not adequately serve the function of telling us "how it really happened."

The principal difficulty has been the tendentious nature of the proceedings. Their object is to compel the respondent organizations to register as Communist-dominated. Various disabilities follow upon such a designation. As a consequence, the hearings are devoted to the proof or disproof of an overly simplified question of fact—indeed, a question that may not admit of a rational answer. Consequently, the SACB proceedings lack the flexible and open-ended quality that is the Congressional investigation's chief merit.

These strictures apply, of course, to the particular administrative tribunal that Congress elected to create, not to any administrative tribunal that might have been created. Conceivably a standing administrative tribunal armed with a broader and more flexible charter than Congress gave the SACB would work. My ideas on this point are implicit in the subsequent discussion of alternative instruments of inquiry for the future.

From the point of view of public enlightenment, it appears that none of the three kinds of institutions made available for the interrogation of ex-Communists is satisfactory. Before we turn to a consideration of alternatives, however, it is necessary to comment on two deficiencies in the mechanism of proof that have contributed significantly to the inadequacy of the public record: the privilege against self-incrimination and the inaccessibility of the files of official investigative agencies, notably the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

### III

*The Immunity Act.* The obvious solution to the difficulties of proof posed by the privilege against self-incrimination lies in the

device of compelling testimony in exchange for immunity from prosecution. That device has been resorted to by Congress on many occasions. Most relevant to this discussion is the Immunity Act of 1954, whose provisions are described in Chapter 2. The Act may be used either by a Congressional committee or by a grand jury. Its use so far has been confined to the grand jury, perhaps because of doubts about the constitutionality of the provision relating to the role of the judiciary in compelling testimony sought by a committee of Congress. Some substantial objections to the Act are set forth in the opinion of the dissenting justices in *Ullmann v. United States*, the case that upheld its constitutionality. The dissenters argue that the principle of the privilege against self-incrimination does more than merely protect a witness against criminal prosecution; it is meant to guarantee to the individual the right of privacy from governmental invasion of his life—he has an infeasible right to be let alone. Of course, if this absolutist position is accepted, discussion is at an end. But the position has not been accepted as a constitutional prohibition, and it seems of doubtful value also as an expression of legislative wisdom.

There are only two real questions, it seems to me. First, what purposes are sought by permitting the exchange of immunity for testimony? And second, what safeguards are available to ensure that the deleterious impact of compulsory testimony will be minimized? These questions can be answered only after an examination of the legal processes in which the immunity provisions are, or might be, given effect.

The grand jury, of course, has the advantage of secret proceedings. But for purposes of creating a public record, that becomes a disadvantage. The grand jury makes its proceedings known in two ways, by indictment or by presentment. The indictment is plainly inappropriate to our purposes; it is merely a conclusory allegation that certain named persons have committed a crime. The presentment, on the other hand, reflects the historic function of the grand jury as a kind of roving inquisition into the management of public affairs. That function has, however, fallen into disuse, particularly in the federal jurisdiction, with which we are concerned. Moreover, the cross section of the community that the grand jury is supposed to reflect, however well suited it may be to some inquisitorial functions, may not be the most appropriate agency for evaluating questions about Communist infiltration.

The other available institution is the Congressional committee. It is here that opponents of the Immunity Act find the most to feel uneasy about. The prospect of a free-wheeling legislative circus, using the Immunity Act at whim to force revelations for whatever motive, is one that may well give pause. All the defects of the legislative inquiry that we have examined might well be magnified by the use of this great power, so instinct with the possibility of oppression.

There is the further possibility, rarely adverted to but certainly present, that witnesses compelled to testify under the Immunity Act may simply commit perjury, particularly where verification of their testimony is not readily available. If perjury does indeed occur in these circumstances, one would expect its incidence to be roughly proportional to the influence of politics and publicity on the hearing in question. If a witness knows that his testimony will be exploited for political advantage, if he knows that his private life will immediately become public property, his motive for evasion or even downright lying is correspondingly strengthened. If that is so, the danger of widespread perjury would be at its greatest in a Congressional investigation. It seems only reasonable that an institution whose history has demonstrated neither fairness nor competence as a characteristic virtue should not exercise powers greater than those which have already led to what is at best a spotty performance.

The question of the Immunity Act, then, is inseparably entwined with the question of the appropriate agency to be entrusted with its power.

*The Jencks Principle.* The investigative files of the FBI and similar agencies are jealously guarded by their custodians. It is right that this should be so, since they presumably contain great masses of unevaluated information whose indiscriminate release would injure to no purpose not only some of the nation's citizens, but the nation itself. Still, the security of these files is not absolute. There are interests to be served by permitting disclosure under some circumstances.

That this is so is illustrated by the Supreme Court's decision in *Jencks v. U.S.*, holding that a defendant in a criminal prosecution is entitled to examine statements made to an investigative agency by a witness against him, so that the defendant may take

advantage in cross-examination of any inconsistencies between the witness's testimony in court and his statement to the investigative agency. The *Jencks* decision was followed by an Act of Congress prescribing in great detail the circumstances under which a criminal defendant might be allowed access to such statements. This in turn has been followed by a considerable volume of case law, interpreting Congress's none-too-clear statute. We need not be concerned here with the technicalities and refinements of the *Jencks* rule. What is relevant to our purpose is an adequate elaboration of the *Jencks* principle and its application to the problem of discovering the facts about American Communism.

The principle, broadly stated, is that a defendant should be given access to all relevant evidence that might assist him in his defense. This in turn rests on a notion of fundamental fairness which insists that the Government may not bring its power to bear on the individual and at the same time conceal information in its possession, a notion that has been reflected in an established line of criminal cases.

It is not immediately apparent why this salutary principle should be confined, first, to criminal proceedings, and second, to protecting the individual's interest. Criminal proceedings are not alone in exposing an accused person to infamy and ruin. The Congressional investigation may be an equally potent instrument to this end. Simple justice suggests giving a person accused of misconduct before an investigating committee the opportunity to discover whether his accuser has made materially inconsistent statements in the past. But over and above this question of fairness to the accused, may there not also be good reason on the public's behalf to insist that accusations of Communist complicity be checked against the accuser's previous *in camera* statements? Without this aid, we are forced to gauge the iceberg's dimensions by what appears above water.

Two examples previously discussed should make the point clear. Would not an impartial fact-finder be better able to evaluate Budenz's charges against Lattimore if he had a complete record of what Budenz had said in private to the FBI? And would not the important question of the timing of Elizabeth Bentley's approach to the FBI be answered if that agency's files could be opened to the extent necessary to expose data relevant to that ques-

tion? Many more examples could be cited, but I think the point is solidly established, at least with respect to the desirability of full disclosure. There are, however, other aspects of the problem that must be taken into account.

These lead us back to the question of who ought to be entrusted with the power to compel this kind of disclosure. It has become a cardinal principle of relations between the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government that the confidentiality of investigative files must not be breached. The experience of the McCarthy era suggests the danger of permitting access to investigative files purely on the *ipse dixit* of a Congressional committee. One solution might be to vest discretion in some executive official to determine when files should be exposed, but experience shows that political influences are by no means confined to Capitol Hill. Attorney-General Brownell's attack on former President Truman, fortified by declassification of secret files on Harry Dexter White, is a clear example (whatever one's view may be of the substantive merits of the case) of the use of confidential information for political purposes. We cannot keep that kind of thing from happening occasionally, but we need not make it a regular principle of executive power. Another possibility, leaving it to the accused to decide whether the files should be exposed, ignores the public interest in disclosure, which might well conflict with the accused man's desire to be let alone.

I am compelled to conclude that the solution, if there is one, lies in the creation of a new instrument of government, one deliberately designed for the kind of inquiry we have been discussing. There is nothing original about this conclusion, but it may take on added force when made in the light of and as a consequence of the kind of investigation of existing processes that has been undertaken in these pages. We turn now to a discussion of possible instruments.

#### IV

What specifications ought to be required in a new instrument of government fit to be entrusted with the great powers that inhere in the Immunity Act and in the *Jencks* principle? There are three that strike me as being of paramount importance: its object must be to find facts rather than to apply sanctions; it must be free

of political pressures; its results rather than its processes must be given publicity. It is evident that these specifications are not met in any existing instrument of the Federal Government in the United States, but possible models do exist elsewhere, both in this country and abroad.

Perhaps the closest case in point is a British institution, the Tribunal of Inquiry. Its purpose has been described by Professor Herman Finer in the leading study on the subject as "removing a quasi-political misdemeanor from the political arena because the proof should be quasi-judicial, but not taking the case to a law court because the problem is quasi-political." It would be hard to frame a more apt description of the kind of problem we have been discussing.

A Tribunal of Inquiry is constituted upon resolution by both Houses of Parliament, in the words of the enabling statute, "for inquiring into a definite matter described in the Resolution as of urgent public importance." It has the powers of a court of law to compel testimony, although it is accorded greater latitude in framing its procedures and in the evidence that it considers. It is typically chaired by a Justice of the High Court; there are usually two other members, who are likely to be senior members of the Bar. The members are appointed, in effect, by the Cabinet. The Tribunal's proceedings are usually public though it may choose in some instances to hear evidence in private. It conducts its inquiry in an orderly and expeditious fashion and renders a report that states its findings of fact. That is all. There is no prosecution and no persecution. If individual public servants are found to have betrayed their trust, they resign without waiting to be removed, so general is the acceptance of the Tribunal's fact-finding.

The procedure of convening a Tribunal of Inquiry is rarely resorted to, a fact that may help to explain its effectiveness. There have been only two instances in the last fifteen years. The first of these demonstrates the Tribunal's success in delving into a highly complex, not to say confused, mass of facts and extracting from them a coherent and orderly account of what happened. The Tribunal investigated an allegation that certain Ministers of the Crown and other public officials had accepted presents from private persons in return for favorable official action. Four interrelated incidents and a dozen different public officials were involved.

The Tribunal, chaired by Mr. Justice Lynskey and assisted in its work by the Attorney General (a member of the same political party as the accused officials!), sat for twenty-six days and heard fifty-eight witnesses, nineteen of them represented by counsel, all of whom were entitled to cross-examine witnesses and frequently availed themselves of the opportunity. The Tribunal's report examined the allegations relative to each transaction and each official whose name was brought into question. Two officials were found to have acted improperly. The meticulous nature of the Tribunal's work is exemplified by its report on the principal malefactor, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. He had been accused of improper dealings with four named private persons; he was declared to be blameless with regard to two of them, but to have betrayed his trust with the other two. He and the other official found to have behaved badly immediately resigned. Just as important, the Tribunal made detailed findings exonerating the other officials whose activities had been questioned.

A noteworthy aspect of the Tribunal's work was the speed with which it acted. The Tribunal was appointed on October 29, 1948; it heard evidence from November 15 to December 21. Its report was rendered in January 1949. The contrast with the typical Congressional investigation is striking. The members of the Tribunal, of course, had no competing demands on their time.

The other Tribunal of Inquiry in recent times had to consider a matter of equal gravity—an allegation that there had been an improper disclosure of an impending rise in the Bank of England's interest rate, to the advantage of certain financial concerns. The affair took place in September 1957. A Tribunal consisting once again of a Justice of the High Court and two senior barristers was appointed in November. The Tribunal sat for twelve days during December, heard 132 witnesses under oath, many of them represented by counsel, took written statements from 236 other persons, and issued a report in January 1958, concluding that the allegations were unfounded. In dealing with some of the more abstruse questions of high finance, the Tribunal had the aid of officials of the Treasury, who conducted the investigatory phase of the inquiry at the Tribunal's direction.

Another British institution provides other aspects of a model relevant to our problem. That is the Royal Commission of In-

quiry and its slightly less prestigious counterpart, the Departmental Committee. Unlike the Tribunal of Inquiry, the Royal Commission is established not to find particular facts but to investigate a general situation and supply a basis for making legislative or other official policy. To put it another way, the Tribunal's fact-finding is adjudicative; the Royal Commission's fact-finding is legislative. The Commission's work may not eventuate in legislation, but it is performed with the possibility of legislation in mind and in aid of that possibility. This difference in function is reflected in the comparative looseness of procedure in setting up a Royal Commission and in carrying on its work. There does not appear to be any general legislative authorization for Royal Commissions comparable to the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act. A Royal Commission is constituted by a command of the Crown directing the prospective members to investigate a given subject, which is defined in the Terms of Reference. In practice, the Crown requests a Commission at the instance of the Cabinet or of a particular minister within whose sphere of interest the subject matter falls. Parliament may in theory impede the establishment or functioning of a Royal Commission by withholding funds, but I know of no instance in which this has been done. A Departmental Committee is indistinguishable from a Royal Commission except that it is constituted by direction of a minister, e.g., the Home Secretary, rather than of the Crown.

The members of a Royal Commission or Departmental Committee are almost always drawn from private life. Depending on how technical the subject of inquiry happens to be, the members may be either experts in the specialty involved or simply prominent members of the community who can be expected to bring common sense and good judgment to bear on any problem confronting them. Ordinarily the Commission has a secretary, who is a civil servant, assigned to help it. His function is to generate the production of evidence, to assist the Commission in keeping track of the evidence received, and to aid in formulating the report that constitutes the normal end product of the Commission's work.

The procedure of a Royal Commission is not fixed by law. Ordinarily, the Commission takes evidence, in either oral or written form, from anyone who desires to be heard. The Commission has no subpoena power; all its witnesses appear voluntarily. The

questioning of witnesses is done informally, without any regard for the rules of evidence or other niceties of the adversary process. This is natural enough, since there is nothing adversary about the process either in form or in substance. The Commissioners have no ax to grind; nothing is at stake for them; their responsibility is to do a good job of considering the facts and arriving at a proposed solution.

Royal Commissions are as frequent as Tribunals of Inquiry are rare. There are usually several in being at any given time. Depending on the complexity of the problem confronting it, a Royal Commission may be in existence for a few months or for several years. Once a final report is rendered, the Commission, having fulfilled its only function, goes out of existence. If legislation results, as it often does, that is the work of other hands. The Commission's job is simply to get the facts in an orderly way and to propose a solution if one seems called for. Its work product usually consists of two items: a report, which narrates the procedure it employed, lists in detail the facts it has found, and makes recommendations; and the Minutes of Evidence, a transcript of the testimony it has heard and the written submissions it has received. If the subject of inquiry is of general public interest, the Commission's report is given wide publicity and is, in itself, a powerful stimulus to legislative action.

The best-known result of the Commission device in recent years is undoubtedly the Report of the Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution, popularly known as the Wolfenden Report. It is a particularly striking instance of the utility of such a report as a basis for drawing public attention to a difficult social problem and stimulating intelligent public discussion of that problem. The Committee\* was appointed by the Home Secretary in August 1954 to consider whether changes in the criminal law relating to homosexual offenses and to prostitution ought to be made. The Committee, chaired by Sir John Wolfenden, consisted of fifteen members, among whom were two doctors, two clergymen, one senior barrister, and one judge. Owing to the delicate nature of the subject, the hearings were conducted entirely in private, a rather unusual procedure, and no Minutes of Evidence were published. The Committee sat for sixty-two days over a period of three years, and

\* A Departmental Committee rather than a Royal Commission.

heard evidence from a large number of interested persons. The Report was rendered in September 1957 and occasioned an intense and protracted public debate, both within and without Parliament, centering on its most controversial recommendation—that homosexual conduct engaged in privately by consenting adults should no longer be treated as a criminal offense. That recommendation has so far failed to be enacted into law, although other, less controversial changes in the law recommended by the Committee did gain enactment.

While there was obviously a wide divergence of opinion about the wisdom of the Committee's recommendations, there is no doubt that its careful and dispassionate analysis of the facts about law enforcement in the field of sexual conduct made a valuable contribution to public enlightenment on both sides of the Atlantic. It does not seem farfetched to suggest that there are many problems of social importance in this country that would similarly benefit from the careful and disinterested scrutiny of a fact-finding body clothed with official powers but free from political pressures.

In fact, *ad hoc* fact-finding boards or commissions are not unknown in the United States. On the federal level there is nothing like the Tribunal of Inquiry, but there have been commissions set up exclusively for fact-finding purposes and manned predominantly, although not exclusively, by persons of stature drawn from private life. The twelve-man Hoover Commission of 1947-49, for example, was constituted by joint action of the President and Congress to investigate ways of tightening the organization and increasing the efficiency of the executive branch of government. And there have been many fact-finding boards set up by the President without statutory authorization, notably in the field of labor relations. On the state level, there is New York's Moreland Act, the closest American analogue to the British Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act. Under this statute, passed in 1907 during the governorship of Charles Evans Hughes, the governor is authorized to appoint one or more commissioners "to examine and investigate the management and affairs of any department, board, bureau, or commission of the State." A Moreland Commissioner has the power to issue subpoenas and to take testimony under oath, and he may employ counsel and other staff to assist him. His report is rendered to the governor, who submits it to the legislature. The

procedure has been resorted to scores of times for investigating the efficiency and honesty of governmental administration in New York.

What might be done along the above lines toward constructing a new instrument of government responsive to the problems canvassed in this book? As a practical matter, of course, it is highly likely that nothing will be done. In moments of crisis the responsible officials are too interested; in moments of tranquility they are not interested enough. Indeed, we have something more than intuition to go on in suggesting that remedial action is unlikely. In 1950, in the midst of controversy about Congressional investigations, Senators Thomas of Utah and Ives of New York introduced a bill to authorize the establishment of "Congressional investigating commissions" to be constituted upon concurrent resolution of both Houses of Congress. Each such commission would consist of seven members—two senators appointed by the President of the Senate, two representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, and three persons appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House from a panel of thirty persons in private life available to serve on such a commission, the panel to be appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. There are many questionable features in this plan, but surely it deserved serious consideration. It got none. Whether such a plan would receive consideration today is doubtful.

The factor that has as a practical matter militated against the enactment of reforms in the field of official fact-finding is also the factor that poses the greatest obstacle to successful adaptation of the British experience to American needs: the difference between the Parliamentary system and our own. In Great Britain there is little conflict between the legislative and executive branches of the Government, since the executive is simply the functioning voice of the majority party in Parliament. This makes it materially easier for the British to assign delicate problems of fact-finding to a Tribunal of Inquiry or a Royal Commission, even when the investigation may yield results embarrassing to the Government. The nature of the problem becomes apparent when we ask what provision could be made in the United States for setting up such tri-



bunals and appointing their members. In the American context, these problems pose formidable theoretical difficulties, to say nothing of what may be insurmountable practical obstacles.

There is no dodging the issue by confining the solution to the executive or the legislative branch alone. It seems highly unrealistic to suppose that a special tribunal established on Congressional initiative and appointed by Congress would ever be efficacious, although such a solution might stand a relatively good chance of Congressional approval. A purely Congressional tribunal would, indeed, only intensify the conflict between the two branches when the matter under inquiry involved the conduct of officials within the executive branch. It might be expected to provoke many invocations of "executive privilege" as a bar to inquiry. On the surface, a proposal to set up such tribunals wholly by executive action might have more appeal, but that too would be unworkable. Without Congressional action, such tribunals could not be given any of the powers necessary for adequate performance of their job: they could not, for example, even be empowered to take testimony under oath, let alone to compel the attendance of witnesses. They could, in short, function like a Royal Commission (if the President could scrape up the money) but not like a Tribunal of Inquiry. That would not be good enough. Congress and the President would have to cooperate.

The two major problems that would have to be faced in framing federal legislation authorizing the creation of an adequate instrument of inquiry modeled on the British experience are, first, who shall determine when a tribunal should be convened and, second, how and by whom shall the tribunal's members be appointed. The determination of necessity presents a range of possibilities: determination by the President alone; determination by the President subject to the approval (or disapproval) of one or both houses of Congress; determination by one or both houses of Congress subject to the approval (or disapproval) of the President; determination by one or both houses alone; etc., etc. My preference would be for a system that permitted initiation by either branch subject to a reasonably speedy check by the other, on the view that both will always have an interest but that on any given occasion that interest may be less intense in one branch than in the other. Thus it might be provided that a tribunal could be convened either at the President's instance, subject to disapproval by either house

within a fixed time (an arrangement analogous to the present provision for reorganization plans), or by resolution of either house subject to Presidential disapproval. In either event, the view of a simple majority of one house that a matter is (or is not) of sufficient importance to warrant creation of a tribunal ought to be enough.

The appointment problem is more complex. It has two aspects: who shall be eligible to serve and who shall make the appointments? On the issue of eligibility, the Thomas-Ives proposal provides an example of the struggle between principle and expediency that makes a satisfactory solution hard to come by. The proposal recognizes that persons from outside Congress should serve, but members of the Senate and House are included, presumably to soften Congressional resistance to the scheme. I think the concession is a fatal one. A Congressman is not less a Congressman because he serves on something called a commission or a tribunal rather than on something called a Congressional committee. The influences of politics and publicity will make themselves felt, whatever name is given to the forum. It is, in my view, no accident that the successful operation of the British models has involved reliance on persons drawn from outside Parliament. Of course, the same principle excludes politically appointed officers in the executive branch. And it is unlikely that adequate confidence could be reposed in a roster chosen from among those protected by Civil Service. That leaves, from official life, only the judges. Federal judges cannot be compelled to perform extrajudicial functions, and there is a body of informed opinion holding that they should not do so voluntarily. Yet their presence can add much, as it did in the Pearl Harbor inquiry undertaken by Mr. Justice Roberts, and I should not wish to see them excluded as a source of talent. The state judiciary provides another reservoir that should perhaps be available. But the backbone of a successfully functioning institution of this sort should be a roster of persons drawn from private life.

The idea of a standing panel contained in the Thomas-Ives proposal may be a useful one, although I doubt that thirty names would give a sufficient diversity of outlook and experience to meet the range of uses to which fact-finding tribunals might be put. A hundred or even two hundred eligibles, including such judges as are willing to serve, would be better.

The panel device would serve the additional function of giving



the competing governmental interests an advance share in the appointment power. It might, for example, be provided that the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House should each designate one-third of the total number of persons to serve on the panel from which members of tribunals would be drawn, all designations to be subject to Senatorial (or Congressional) approval. With that kind of screening device in operation, it might then be unobjectionable to provide for Presidential appointment to a tribunal, after one has been constituted, without requiring that the appointees be confirmed for service on the particular tribunal.\* The President might be required to appoint members in equal numbers from each of the three groups of panel members—the Senate's, the House's, and his own. Thus the qualifications of appointees could be studied at leisure and without reference to the particular fact-finding job they might be asked to undertake. Then, as the actual need arose, a tribunal could be appointed without delay and without bickering about the suitability of its members. The members of the panel would be available for a fixed period of time, say four years, after which a new panel would be constituted.

This scheme for constituting a tribunal and appointing its members may seem complex, but assuredly some scheme of equal complexity would be required to minimize the frictions inherent in the American system of separated powers. Whether such a scheme would stand any chance of acceptance would depend in part on what powers it is proposed to give a fact-finding tribunal and on what its relation should be to other instruments of inquiry, especially Congressional investigating committees.

At first glance, it might seem wise to provide that once a fact-finding tribunal has been constituted, it should "occupy the field" to the exclusion of Congressional committee inquiries into the same subject matter. Experience suggests, however, that Congress would never agree to such a curtailment of its jurisdiction. And even if it did, the result would very likely be an unseemly race to get a legislative committee started on an investigation or, worse yet, a reluctance to approve any call for a fact-finding tribunal if any Congressional committee had an interest in the subject of the po-

\* Lodging the appointive power in the Chief Justice, a superficially attractive solution, may raise constitutional problems.

tential inquiry. Better that there should be an occasional overlap. Indeed, it may be desirable to have some conflicts of jurisdiction at the start, if only to give the new instrument of inquiry an opportunity to demonstrate its utility. As instances multiply and a tradition establishes itself, a pattern of deference to the new device can be expected to develop in proportion to its success in discharging the distinctive function assigned to it. It would be wrong to try to build that pattern of deference into the system at the start; it cannot take root except in experience.

The *ad hoc* nature of these tribunals is essential. Each tribunal should be freshly constituted with new members and allowed to employ its own staff and, most important, its own counsel. Perhaps some continuity in staff personnel is inevitable, even desirable; but the members and the counsel should come from other callings and return to them after the tribunal has performed its appointed task. Otherwise, politics and publicity are bound to reappear as baneful and distracting influences.

The powers that such a tribunal should exercise have already been enumerated: ideally it should possess the power to subpoena witnesses and documents, to take testimony under oath, to compel testimony as to which the privilege against self-incrimination is invoked by granting immunity from criminal prosecution, and to obtain such material from the files of the FBI and other Government agencies as it may deem pertinent to the subject of inquiry and to the testimony of witnesses called before the tribunal. These last two powers—the immunity power and the power to invoke what I have referred to as the *Jencks* principle—are essential to the successful operation of fact-finding tribunals. These powers are also, as I have said before, capable of being used oppressively. There is no way to ensure that they will not be so used by these tribunals; we can only observe that the stimulus to oppressive use seems lacking in a system such as the one we have been considering.

The procedures of a fact-finding tribunal should not be prescribed by law, but should be molded to fit the exigencies of the particular occasion. Ordinarily, the counsel and staff should investigate and interview potential witnesses before their testimony is formally taken. In that way, situations that may call for use of the immunity power or the *Jencks* principle can be uncovered and dealt with deliberately rather than on the spur of the moment.

That, of course, will usually occur only where the tribunal is charged with looking into allegations of past misdeeds, as in the case of the British Tribunal of Inquiry, not where it seeks purely to gather information on a social problem, as in the case of a Royal Commission. It is in the first of these two roles that the proposed tribunal would find its greater use, I think, simply because it is that role in which our existing fact-finding institutions are most conspicuously deficient.

The tribunal should be allowed to hire experts to help in its work. If the subject of inquiry were, let us say, the allegation made by Senator McCarthy in 1950 that Communists had infiltrated the State Department and were, even then, occupying policy-making positions, consider how helpful it would be to have on hand a historian or political scientist at home in the factual setting of the problem. I do not think that this kind of need is satisfied by calling such persons as "expert witnesses." Rather, they should participate as members of the staff and advisers to the tribunal.

Since the only object of the tribunal is to find facts, since no sanctions will be or can be imposed as a consequence, the tribunal should not have to follow formal rules of evidence or observe niceties of internal divisions of function. It should have the power to hear witnesses in private and to publish as much or as little of the testimony so given as it sees fit to publish. It should, however, be required to accord witnesses the right to be assisted by counsel and to cross-examine adverse witnesses or, failing that, to be apprised of and given the chance to reply to any charges made by adverse witnesses. The tribunal's report, rendered as soon as careful study of the problem permitted, should be a public document and would undoubtedly receive extensive publicity. It is just as desirable that publicity be encouraged at the end as that it be discouraged during the process. Providing for controlled publicity of this sort is not an easy task in this country, as a matter either of constitutional law or of the practicabilities of control, but the effort should surely be made. The power to proceed in private, reinforced by the contempt power or by a criminal statute, should go a long way toward dealing with the problem of publicity.

It would be fanciful to speculate on the extent, if any, to which a new instrument of inquiry, fashioned along these lines, would have yielded more public enlightenment than the various proceed-

ings we have analyzed in these pages. It would be even more fanciful to speculate on the extent, if any, to which public decorum would have been preserved and the rancors of the past fifteen years avoided. The extent to which changes in laws and in legal institutions result in changes in the way people behave is one of the ultimate imponderables.

The problem of Communist penetration in this country is now a stale one. It is in all likelihood too late to traverse again, even with greatly improved fact-finding processes, the ground that has been so unsatisfactorily covered in the past. Individual scholars must take over, as they are indeed now doing. But the problem of Communist penetration is not unique in its capacity to stir issues upon which there is a need for public enlightenment that cannot be satisfied by private efforts. Charges of corruption in government are always going to be with us; issues of public policy on which disinterested official scrutiny is needed constantly arise. Many such charges and many such issues can be dealt with satisfactorily enough by existing instruments of inquiry. But there will always be those that arouse too much controversy and that strike too deep to be handled as they are at present. When that happens, as it surely will again, we would be fortunate to have at the service of the body politic an instrument of inquiry that could enlist the best talents of our society in the aid of public enlightenment.

REC-31  
100-16177-187 August 29, 1962

**Mr. John Lautner**  
**125 Riverside Drive**  
**New York 26, New York**

**Dear Mr. Lautner:**

Your letter of August 24th has been received, and the interest promoting your communication is appreciated.

Although I would like to be of assistance, my book, "A Study of Communism," will not be released until October 1st. It will be published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Incorporated, 383 Madison Avenue, New York 17, New York. I trust you will be able to secure a copy of it after that date.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

**John Edgar Hoover**  
**Director**

MAILED 5

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NOTE: Bufiles indicate that John Lautner, a former Communist Party functionary, was expelled from the Party and has been a valuable government witness in numerous Smith Act trials. He has been paid as a consultant to the Internal Security Division of the Department and at one time had difficulty with the Department. He has been cooperative with the Bureau and on February 27, 1959, the Director wrote him a cordial letter commending on his testimony and thanking him for kind expressions about the FBI.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
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Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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TRUE COPY

New York, August 24, 1962

Dear Mr. Hoover:

It was brought to my attention, that your new book, "The Study of Communism" in its first printing is already available.

I would be grateful if someone from your office could help me to obtain a copy.

I am certain that an advance copy would be a great aid to me, since I have a number of lectures scheduled in September.

Sincerely yours,

John Lautner

125 Riverside Drive  
New York, 26, N. Y.

*1 TC 8/29/62 Jan  
ack 8/29/62 [signature]  
691/8 [signature]*

REC-31  
100-16177-187

12 AUG 31 1962

New York, August 24, 1962

Dear Mr. Hoover:

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I am certain that an advance copy would be a great aid to me, since I have a number of lectures scheduled in September.

Sincerely yours,

John Zantner.

125 Riverside Drive  
New York, 24, N.Y.

CORRESPONDENCE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-16177)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (134-66) (ADM)

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER  
SOURCE OF INFORMATION

DATE: 10/15/64

On 10/14/64, JOHN LAUTNER, former CSNY 588, contacted SA [redacted] and advised that he had been contacted by [redacted] for the U.S. Treasury Department, who asked whether he would assist the Internal Revenue Service in connection with the preparation of their tax case against the CP, USA. LAUTNER stated that he agreed and indicated that he will prepare material which will cover a description of all activities of the CP, USA. He pointed out that this assignment will last for about ten days and that he will receive \$50.00 per day for his services. He also indicated that he will probably be used later as an expert witness whenever the trial should be scheduled.

LAUTNER further advised that he was also contacted on 10/14/64, by Mr. ROY BREWER, an Executive Vice-President of Allied Artists, and asked to testify in the case involving the "Hollywood writers" who are suing the motion picture companies for triple damages as a result of the boycott against them years ago. He further advised that he was also recently contacted by MYLES LANE, former U.S. Attorney in the SDNY, and that he also asked LAUTNER to testify in connection with this same litigation. LAUTNER explained that LANE is apparently representing a separate group of motion picture companies.

JOHN LAUTNER continues to reside at 338 91st St., Brooklyn 9, New York. He has indicated that there is no new information to report in relation to the book that he has been writing for several years. He believes the manuscript should have been published years ago and since he does not believe it would be successful at this time, he is "just sitting on it". He continues to write however, and has contributed articles to the "Tablet", the HCUA, various church publications and the American Legion magazine. From time to time he appears on various panels as a speaker and has lectured at Yale University and, more recently, Vanderbilt and Notre Dame Universities.

The above is furnished for information purposes.

2 - Bureau (RM)  
1 - New York

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO: *JFM* DIRECTOR, FBI (100-200845)  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-83801) (P)

DATE: July 26, 1965

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Rebulet 7-12-65.

The following investigation was conducted pursuant to instructions as set forth in referenced Bureau letter:

[REDACTED] who, on April 30, 1953, identified [REDACTED] as a CP member active in the Music II Section during the latter part of 1949 or early 1950, advised on July 2, 1965, that he would not testify in any proceeding.

*CO-16177*  
JOHN LAUTNER, former Chairman of the New York State Review Commission, CP, who was expelled from the CP in January, 1950, and who on December 13, 1954, *stated* that he knew the subject as a CP member from 1947 to 1949. JOHN LAUTNER was contacted by SA [REDACTED] on July 26, 1965 and advised that he could testify before the HCUA as to the subject's CP membership during the late 1940's. It is recommended that the name of JOHN LAUTNER be made available to Mr. McNAMARA, Director, HCUA.

*CO-63*  
LOUIS F. BUDENZ, who, on June 30, 1950, advised that the subject was a member of the CP in 1949, as of July 27, 1962, was residing in Newport, Rhode Island. All leads pertaining to BUDENZ are to be forwarded to the Boston Office. A letter has been sent to the Boston Office setting forth instructions as set forth in referenced Bureau letter. They have been advised to contact BUDENZ and advise the Bureau as to results, as well as making a recommendation concerning his name being made available to Mr. McNAMARA.

A review of indices of the NYO as well as subject's case file failed to disclose any additional information concerning subject's CP membership.

(2) Bureau (RM)  
(3) New York

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ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-200845-1

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

February 9, 1965

Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Liaison  
1 - Mr. Baumgardner  
1 - Mr. Shaw  
1 - Mr. Reddy

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE v. 1  
COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET NUMBER 63763

In connection with the pending action by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to recover some \$300,000 from the Communist Party, USA, for income and excess profit taxes and penalties for the year 1951, we have been cooperating with the Chief Counsel's Office of IRS.

In the attached letter dated 1/27/65, Mitchell Rogovin, Chief Counsel, IRS, advised that trial of this case is now set for 3/22/65 in the Tax Court of the United States of New York City and that former Communist Party functionaries John Lautner and Barbara Hartle will be utilized as expert witnesses. In order to comply with a possible ruling by the Court regarding the Jencks Law, Rogovin requested that he be furnished "copies of all reports and transcripts of interviews with each of these two witnesses which have been given to the Justice Department."

Neither Lautner nor Hartle was a Communist Party member for the FBI and neither submitted informant reports although the Seattle Office took three signed statements from Hartle when she defected from the Party in 1954. Lautner and [ ] have, however, furnished us voluminous information regarding the Communist Party and its members and, since 1950 and 1954, respectively, we have interviewed Lautner and [ ] on numerous occasions in cases in which we have an interest. The results of these numerous interviews are set out in various types of Bureau documents, including investigative reports, letters, teletypes, airtels and memoranda, which are maintained in files at the Seat of Government and in several field offices. Accordingly, unless each office conducts an intensive file check, we could not be sure that we had located all reports and transcripts of interviews with Lautner and Hartle.

Since this problem had previously arisen in the Denver Smith Act trial and had at that time discussed it with the Department, Supervisor Edward B. Reddy and I conferred this morning with Department Attorneys [ ] I acquainted [ ] with the nature of the IRS request. I pointed out that the Bureau has been cooperating with IRS in this case and desired to continue cooperating, but that the current request by IRS poses certain problems

1 - 100-107725 (Hartle)  
1 - 100-207770 (Lautner)  
Enclosure

CONTINUED--OVER

FEB 19 1965



Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan  
Re: COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE v.  
COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET NUMBER 83763  
100-3-63

which the Bureau felt should be called to the attention of the Internal Security Division, particularly since the same problem had arisen in the Denver Smith Act case.

[ ] recalled the problem, particularly as it related to Lautner in the Denver Smith Act case, and he further recalled that at that time the Department had decided to restrict production of the Lautner documents to those contained in Lautner's control file in the New York Office, which amounted to approximately 800 documents. [ ] agreed that unless a complete check of the Bureau's files was made, not only at the Seat of Government, but also throughout the field, IRS could not be assured that all of the reports and transcripts of interviews with Lautner and Hartle had been located. [ ] noted that the Department faces a similar problem since both Lautner and Hartle have been interviewed on numerous occasions and in numerous cases by Department attorneys. [ ] said it would take a similar exhaustive review of the Department's files to uncover all of the reports and transcripts of these interviews.

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[ ] expressed the opinion that IRS was probably not aware of the tremendous scope of their request or of the problems involved. [ ] felt that the complete details should be made available to IRS. A conference to be attended by representatives of IRS, the Bureau and the Internal Security Division. [ ] suggested that such a conference be arranged, if possible, for Friday, February 12, 1965, at IRS.

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OBSERVATIONS:

Pursuant to [ ] recommendation, we will have liaison contact Chief Counsel Mitchell Rogovin at IRS and orally acknowledge receipt of his letter of 1/27/65. Rogovin will be advised that the IRS request poses certain problems which the Bureau has discussed with the Internal Security Division, Department of Justice, and that the Internal Security Division representative had suggested a conference be set up on Friday, February 12, 1965, if possible, at IRS, at which representatives of the Internal Security Division and the Bureau will be in attendance. This conference will be aimed at fully briefing IRS regarding the various problems inherent in the IRS request for copies of all reports of interviews with John Lautner and Barbara Hartle. If the date is satisfactory, Rogovin will be requested to designate an appropriate time for the conference.

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ACTION:

If you approve, this memorandum should be routed to the Liaison Section for immediate contact with Rogovin as outlined above.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 2/15/65

FROM : F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Baumgardner  
1 - Mr. Shaw  
1 - Mr. Reddy

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE v.  
COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET NUMBER 63763

This morning, Supervisor E. B. Reddy and I met with Mitchell Rogovin, Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and [redacted] the IRS Attorney who will handle the forthcoming trial against the Communist Party, USA, to recover some \$300,000 for income and excess profit taxes and penalties for the year 1951. Also present were several IRS attorneys on Rogovin's staff as well as Department Attorneys [redacted] who were representing Assistant Attorney General Yeagley. I told Rogovin that the conference had been suggested by the Internal Security Division of the Department in order that the Department and the Bureau could fully brief IRS regarding the scope of their request for copies of all statements to the FBI from former Communist Party functionaries John Lautner and Barbara Hartle whom IRS proposes to utilize as expert witnesses at the forthcoming tax trial.

I advised those present that neither Lautner nor Hartle was a Communist Party member for the FBI and neither submitted informant reports although the Seattle Office took several signed statements from Hartle when she defected from the Communist Party in 1954. I noted that Lautner and Hartle have, however, furnished us voluminous information regarding the Communist Party and its members and, since 1950 and 1954, respectively, we have interviewed Lautner and Hartle on numerous occasions in cases in which we have an interest. The results of these numerous interviews are set out in various types of Bureau documents, including investigative reports, letters, teletypes, airtels and memoranda, which are maintained in files at the Seat of Government and in several field offices. I told Rogovin that even if we conducted an extensive check of Bureau files at the Seat of Government and throughout the entire field, which would be of itself a monumental operation, we could not absolutely certify to IRS that we had unearthed the recording of every single interview

1 - 100-107725 (Hartle) 1 - 100-365248 (Philbrick)  
1 - 100-16177 (Lautner)  
100-3-63  
Enclosure  
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FEB 18 1965

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Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan  
RE: COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE v.  
COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET NUMBER 63763

with Lautner and Hartle and accordingly, IRS could not so assure the tax court should this question arise. I told Rogovin that we had experienced this same problem with reference to Lautner and Hartle in our own cases and that the Internal Security Division had considered this problem at that time.

At this point, Department Attorneys [ ] [ ] briefed the IRS representatives on the application of the Jencks Law in connection with the production of the recordings of interviews with Government witnesses. [ ] distinguished between (1) the "statements" which relate to direct testimony of the witness and which must be produced to defense counsel following any necessary excising and (2) the remaining documents which the Government either claims are not "statements" or which are irrelevant. [ ] pointed out that the latter type of documents must, however, be made available for in chambers review by the court or the administrative board.

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[ ] said that with reference to Lautner's and Hartle's testimony in earlier Bureau cases, the Department had authorized the Bureau to assemble only the Lautner documents which are maintained in his control file in the New York Office and the Hartle documents which are maintained in Hartle's control files in the Seattle and Pittsburgh Offices. These amounted to 789 documents for Lautner and approximately 150 for Hartle. Only 44 of the Lautner documents related to Lautner's direct testimony and a lesser number of the Hartle documents relate to her direct testimony. [ ] said that the Government was never pinned down to a specific statement that the documents produced to defense counsel or to the court included every interview by the FBI with Lautner and Hartle.

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Rogovin felt and the remaining IRS attorneys and Department attorneys agreed that the same policy should apply to the IRS tax case and that should it be necessary to make any representation to the court, it can be stated that these documents comprise the recordings of interviews with the witnesses and were assembled following a reasonable search of the files of the FBI. Rogovin then requested that the Bureau assemble the Lautner and Hartle documents in Washington for review by IRS attorneys. It was further agreed that any documents recording additional interviews with Lautner and Hartle in New York City, Seattle, or Pittsburgh which took place following the assembling of these documents for the first time in Bureau cases and which are available in the control files in New York, Seattle, and Pittsburgh should be included.

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan  
RE: COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE v.  
COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET NUMBER 63763

The question of IRS possibly utilizing former confidential informant Herbert Philbrick as a witness came up. I told Rogovin that Philbrick had been a Bureau informant and had submitted informant reports. Rogovin then suggested and the attorneys agreed that the Bureau should obtain Philbrick's informant reports from the Boston Office for review by IRS attorneys and that the recording of interviews with Philbrick following his discontinuance as an informant and which are available in Philbrick's file in the Boston Office should also be included.

I told Rogovin that the Bureau would obtain the described documents of Lautner, Hartle, and Philbrick and I would advise him when they are available for review by IRS attorneys. I also pointed out to Rogovin that during a recent discussion with [redacted] of the Internal Security Division, I had suggested the desirability of assigning an attorney from the Internal Security Division who is thoroughly familiar with the application of the Jencks Law to sit at counsel table during the tax trial, primarily to assure protection of any Bureau documents which might have to be produced. Rogovin agreed that this was an excellent idea and he would pursue it with the Department.

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OBSERVATIONS:

It was obvious from the initial comments of IRS attorneys that IRS has had very little experience with the Jencks Law. The presence at counsel table of an experienced attorney from the Internal Security Division should, however, be of great assistance to the IRS attorneys. Rogovin expressed extreme gratitude for the briefing and for the Bureau's past and present cooperation in this case.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached airtel be transmitted to New York, Seattle, Pittsburgh, and Boston instructing that the necessary documents be promptly transmitted to the Bureau for review by IRS attorneys.

*sent*  
*OK WU*  
*gmc*

February 16, 1965

Airtel

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Baumgardner  
1 - Mr. Shaw  
1 - Mr. Reddy

To: SACs New York  
Seattle (Enclosure)  
Pittsburgh  
Boston

From: Director, FBI

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE v.  
COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET NUMBER 63763

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-25-86 BY 3042 PGT/HCB

205,729

For information all offices, the trial of the captioned case is scheduled to begin on 3/22/65 in the United States Tax Court, New York City.

The Office of the Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), has advised that John Lautner, Barbara Hartle, and possibly former confidential informant Herbert Philbrick will be utilized as expert witnesses. In order to comply with a possible ruling by the Tax Court that IRS must comply with the Jencks Law, the Bureau has been requested to furnish IRS copies of all reports and transcripts of interviews with these potential witnesses.

During a conference with representatives of the IRS and the Internal Security Division of the Department, it was decided by the Internal Security Division and IRS attorneys to restrict the requested documents as follows:

(1) John Lautner

(a) The 44 documents in the files of the New York Office described in New York letter to the Bureau dated 1/22/58 captioned "John Lautner, Source of Information."

(b) The 73 additional documents in the files of the New York Office originally requested in Bulet to New York 4/25/58 and described in Bulet to

1 - 100-107725 (Hartle)  
1 - 100-16177 (Lautner)  
1 - 100-365248 (Philbrick)  
EBR:jas (17)

NOTE: See memorandum Baumgardner to Sullivan same caption, dated 2/15/65, EBR:jas.

FEB 23 1965

NOT RECORDED  
180 FEB 18 1965

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Airtel to New York, Seattle, Pittsburgh, Boston  
RE: COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL SECURITY v.  
COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET NUMBER 63763

the Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, copies to New York dated 3/2/38, both captioned "John Cyril Hellman, IS-C, Smith Act of 1940."

(c) Any additional documents in the control file only on Lautner in the New York Office recording any interviews with Lautner subsequent to the interviews reported in the above-described 783 documents.

(2) Barbara Bartle

(a) The documents in the files of the Pittsburgh Office described in Pittsburgh airtel to the Bureau and Butte dated 3/30/38, captioned "John Cyril Hellman, IS-C, Smith Act of 1940."

(b) The documents in the files of the Seattle Office described under items 38 and 39 in Chicago form FD-192 captioned "Max Morris Weiss, IS-C," a copy of which is attached for Seattle.

(c) Any additional documents in the control files only on Bartle in the Seattle and Pittsburgh Offices recording any interviews with Bartle subsequent to those reported in the above-described documents.

(3) Herbert Philbrick

(a) Philbrick's informant reports.

(b) Any documents in the control file only on Philbrick in the Boston Office recording any interviews with Philbrick subsequent to his discontinuance as a confidential informant.

Each office immediately submit to the Bureau the originals of the above-described documents. The Bureau will handle any necessary reproduction.

2/25/65

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-3)  
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-4931)  
SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL  
REVENUE VS. COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET # 63763  
IS-C

ReBuairtel 2/16/65, requesting that the NYO  
submit originals of documents pertaining to JOHN LAUTNER.  
Identity of the documents were set forth.

Enclosed herewith are originals of  
documents described as follows:

44 documents described in New York letter to  
the Bureau, dated 1/22/58, captioned, "JOHN LAUTNER,  
SOURCE OF INFORMATION."

739 documents described in New York letter  
to the Bureau dated 4/25/58, captioned, "JOHN HELLMAN;  
IS-C; SA OF 40."

37 documents in LAUTNER's control file  
recording interviews with LAUTNER subsequent to interviews

3-Bureau (100-3) (Encl. 820) (RM)  
1-New York (134-66) (Inv)  
1-New York (100-4931) (42)  
RGO:rmv  
(6)

NOT RECORDED  
180 MAR 1 1965

100-443445-38  
ORIGINAL FILED IN

MAR 11 1965 *Del*

NY 100-4931

reported in the above-described documents. These are listed as follows:

134-66-1099, 1101, 1105, 1106, 1110, 1112,  
1121, 1122, 1124, 1125, 1127-1132,  
1135-1137, 1138-1141, FD-302, 8/10/62,  
FD-302, 8/15/62, FD-302, 9/28/62, 1145,  
1148, FD-302, 4/12/63, FD-302, 4/17/63,  
1151, FD-302, 9/20/63, 1153-1157



3/3/65

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-3)  
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-4931)  
SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER OF  
INTERNAL REVENUE VS. CPUSA  
DOCKET # 63763

ReBuairtel, 2/16/65, requesting originals of documents reflecting contact with JOHN LAUTNER, the identities of which were set forth.

Re NY airtel, 2/23/65, enclosing 820 documents as requested in reBuairtel.

Enclosed herewith are 27 additional documents reflecting contacts with JOHN LAUTNER by the NYO from 4/25/58 to date.

These documents are identified as follows:

134-66A-180, 181, 183, 183A, 186, 187, 188, 189,  
190, 198, 200, 201, 202, 204, 205, 206,  
209, 210, 211, 212, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219,  
220, 221

3-Bureau (100-3) (Encl. 27) (RM)  
1-New York (100-4931) (42)  
RGO:rmv  
(5)

100-161111  
NOT RECORDED

180

MAR 9 1965

NY 4 11 27 AM '65

NEW YORK DIA  
OFFICE

MAP 17 1965

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-161111-244

WFO, New York

March 16, 1965

Director, FBI (100-443423)

1 - Mail Room  
4 - Mr. Reddy

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE v.  
COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET NUMBER 63702

Rebairtel 2/16/65, furnishing information received from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to the effect that John Lautner, Barbara Hartle, and possibly former Boston informant Herbert Philbrick would be utilized as expert witnesses at the trial of the captioned case which is set for March 22, 1965, in the United States Tax Court, New York City. IRS subsequently advised that Philbrick would not be utilized as a witness and that he would be replaced by [redacted]

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IRS Attorney [redacted] has been furnished copies of the documents containing information obtained by the Bureau from Lautner, Hartle, and [redacted]. [redacted] will have these copies available at the trial for possible production under Section 3500, Title 18, U.S.C., should the trial judge rule that the Jencks Law applies to a case of this nature. The originals of the Lautner and Hartle documents are being transmitted to your office under separate cover and, together with the originals of the [redacted] documents which are already in your possession, should be kept readily available in the event the trial judge rules that the Jencks Law is applicable and then orders that one or more of the original documents be made available to the court for comparison purposes.

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Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Taugley, Internal Security Division, Department of Justice, has assigned Department Attorney [redacted] to sit at counsel table during the trial. Department Attorney [redacted] will assist IRS attorneys in connection with any problems which might arise under the Jencks Law and will afford the necessary security to the Lautner, Hartle, and [redacted] documents. Department Attorney [redacted] will be in contact with your office upon his arrival in New York City and will keep you advised of developments as the trial progresses. Should

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- 1 - Package under separate cover  
1 - Pittsburgh  
1 - Seattle  
① - 100-16177 (Lautner)  
1 - 100-16177-25 (Hartle) 1-100-236975  
HBR-jas  
(14)

100-16177-  
CONTINUE YELLOW 5

202 MAR 16 1965

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ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-16177-5

Letter to SAC, New York  
RE: **COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL SECURITY ..**  
**COMMUNIST PARTY, USA**  
BUCKET "C" 63703

[ ] re sent additional copies of any of the Lautner, Bartle, or [ ] documents or should he request that one or more of the original documents be made available pursuant to an order of the trial judge, you should comply with such a request and should immediately notify the Bureau.

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In the event the trial judge orders that the Federal law is applicable, Department Attorney [ ] will advise you of the identities of those documents which must be made available to defense counsel for cross-examination purposes. You should immediately furnish this information to the Bureau. If the trial judge then orders copies of the remaining documents made available to him for review purposes and orders any additional documents turned over to defense counsel, Department Attorney [ ] will advise of the identities of such additional documents and this information should also be immediately furnished to the Bureau.

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For your information, the Bartle documents consist of three volumes of various types of communications setting out information furnished to the Bureau's Seattle and Pittsburgh Offices by Bartle; one volume of signed statements of Bartle; two volumes of notes prepared by Bureau Agents who interviewed Bartle; and 10 volumes containing handwritten notes prepared by Bartle during the time she was active in the Communist Party.

The Lautner documents consist of six volumes of various types of communications setting out information furnished to your office by Lautner. Volume one contains the 44 documents which were selected by Department attorneys as relating to Lautner's testimony at various Smith Act trials.

The [ ] documents, the originals of which are already in your possession, consist of the recording of the results of 30 interviews with [ ]

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Letter to SAC, New York  
RE: COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE v.  
COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET NUMBER 63783

You should immediately designate a qualified Special Agent to effect and maintain close liaison with Department Attorney [ ] in order to assure that any problems affecting the Bureau or the documents made available to IRS by the Bureau may be promptly brought to the Area's attention.

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b7C

Mr. Callahan

3/19/65

M. F. Row

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE v.  
COMMUNIST PARTY, USA  
DOCKET NUMBER 63763

In accordance with the request of Supervisor E. B. Reddy of the Domestic Intelligence Division that the original receipts executed by former Bureau informant John Lautner and one set of duplicates, be furnished for use in connection with prospective testimony by the informant in the captioned matter, there are enclosed 59 original receipts totaling \$3,092.98, and one set of Xerox copies.

In connection with the receipt dated 4/24/51, in the amount of \$40.00, it should be noted that the receipt fails to indicate the purpose for which the payment was made; however, the blue slip which accompanied this item indicates that it was for "Salary." Also, in connection with the receipt dated 11/9/54, in the amount of \$54.78, it should be noted that the receipt shows the amount was not paid to Lautner. The blue slip which accompanied this item indicates payment was to TWA Airlines for transportation of Lautner. The receipt was not executed by Lautner, but apparently by an individual connected with TWA.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That this memorandum together with the original receipts and Xerox copies be forwarded to the Domestic Intelligence Division for their use.

2. That the original receipts be replaced by the set of Xerox copies and returned to the Bureau, attention Voucher-Statistical Section after they have been introduced in evidence.

Enclosures

LDC:kab

67 MAR 22 1965

NOT RECORDED  
145

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. J. F. Bland *JFB*

DATE May 13, 1965

FROM : T. D. Rushing *pk.*

1 - Mr. Bland  
1 - Mr. Rushing  
1 -

SUBJECT *6/11/65* JOHN LAUTNER  
SECURITY MATTER - C

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b7C

Chicago letter dated 4/7/65 captioned "CP, USA, Internal Security - C," forwarded a list of expulsions from the Communist Party in New York for the years 1950 to 1953.

Included in this material was the name of the captioned individual who appears to be identical with an individual by that name in the above-mentioned list.

Chicago noted the extremely delicate source of the information and instructed the field to initiate no investigation based upon this material without prior Bureau approval. If deemed desirable, investigation can be initiated under suitable safeguards to insure the security of the source. Chicago further instructed that the information is not to be included in an investigative report for dissemination. If deemed pertinent, the information may be disseminated suitably paraphrased in such a manner as to fully protect the source's identity. The Chicago letter of transmittal is filed as serial 7969 of 100-3.

## ACTION:

For record purposes.

100-16177-

RECORDED

4 MAY 18 1965

LGL:jed  
(4) *jed*

Bufile 100-16177  
*100-16177*

*I. [Signature]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-16177)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (134-66) (ADM.)

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER  
SOURCE OF INFORMATION

DATE: 7/1/65

On 6/29/65, JOHN LAUTNER contacted the NYO and advised that he had observed a notice in the business section of the "New York Times", the Sunday edition of 6/13/65. According to LAUTNER the notice in question was evidently inserted for the purpose of soliciting or hiring persons for intelligence work. He explained that he assumed this ad was placed by the Central Intelligence Agency and it called for applications to be mailed to: "Careers in US Intelligence, P.O. Box 128, Montello Station, Brockton, Mass."

LAUTNER disclosed that he answered this advertisement and mailed an application to the aforementioned address. LAUTNER further advised that he felt that he should make this fact known to the FBI.

The Bureau is accordingly being advised and no action is being contemplated by the NYO.

2 - Bureau (RM)  
1 - New York

JEG:poc  
(3)

REC-73

EX-101

15 JUL 2 1965

INT. SEC.



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-16177)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (134-66) (ADM)

SUBJECT: JOHN LAUTNER  
SOURCE OF INFORMATION

DATE: 2/10/67

In a contact with JOHN LAUTNER on 2/6/67, it was learned that MIKLOS KALLAY, the former Prime Minister of Hungary, had recently passed away in New York City. KALLAY, who was related to LAUTNER by marriage, is the subject of Bufile 105-43212.

LAUTNER also noted that his brother had also died this past weekend in Youngstown, Ohio. LAUTNER indicated that his brother had been suffering from cancer.

LAUTNER further disclosed that he had visited Senator THOMAS DODD in Stratford, Connecticut, this past weekend. He explained that a mutual friend had suggested to Senator DODD that LAUTNER might possibly be of assistance to him in connection with a book that DODD intends to write dealing with his past experiences. LAUTNER stated that no decision was reached regarding his possible services, which would be restricted to preparing an outline. LAUTNER expressed the opinion that such a book is merely in the discussion stage and that no definite plans have been formulated.

LAUTNER now resides at 211 Morrison Walk, Island Park, New York, and his unlisted phone number is 516-889-8154. He continues to be unemployed and his income, believed to be meager, is probably derived from free-lance writing, lectures, and Social Security payments.

The above is furnished for information purposes.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)  
(1 - 105-43212) (MIKLOS KALLAY)  
1 - New York (65-17069) (MIKLOS KALLAY)  
1 - New York

JEG:11  
(7) FEB 23 1967



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

EX-102

REC- 59

100-16177-190

FEB 13 1967

INT. SEC.

STANDARD COPY FILED



Routing Slip

9-25-67

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC,

<input type="checkbox"/> Albany	<input type="checkbox"/> Houston	<input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk	<input type="checkbox"/> Tampa
<input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque	<input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis	<input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma City	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington Field
<input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage	<input type="checkbox"/> Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/> Omaha	<input type="checkbox"/> Quantico
<input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta	<input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville	<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore	<input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City	<input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix	
<input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham	<input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville	<input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh	
<input type="checkbox"/> Boston	<input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas	<input type="checkbox"/> Portland	
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo	<input type="checkbox"/> Little Rock	<input type="checkbox"/> Richmond	
<input type="checkbox"/> Butte	<input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles	<input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> Memphis	<input type="checkbox"/> Salt Lake City	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati	<input type="checkbox"/> Miami	<input type="checkbox"/> San Antonio	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland	<input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee	<input type="checkbox"/> San Diego	
<input type="checkbox"/> Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis	<input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dallas	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/> San Juan	
<input type="checkbox"/> Denver	<input type="checkbox"/> Newark	<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah	
<input type="checkbox"/> Detroit	<input type="checkbox"/> New Haven	<input type="checkbox"/> Seattle	
<input type="checkbox"/> El Paso	<input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans	<input type="checkbox"/> Springfield	
<input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York City		

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern  
☐ Bonn  
☐ Buenos Aires  
☐ Hong Kong  
☐ London  
☐ Manila  
☐ Mexico, D.F.  
☐ Ottawa  
☐ Paris  
☐ Rome  
☐ Santo Domingo  
☐ Tokyo

Date **January 28, 1969**

RE: **JOHN LAUTNER**  
**SOURCE OF INFORMATION**

*Copy for Bufile*

*file - 5*  
*12*

☐ For information    ☐ Retention optional    ☐ For appropriate action    ☐ Surep, by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

**Attached is a Xerox of a personal letter from John Lautner to Section Chief Arbor W. Gray of the Bureau. Gray previously handled Lautner as a source when Gray was assigned to the New York Office, 1951-1956.**

**This personal letter, dated 1/13/69, has been acknowledged by Gray with no commitments. It is being furnished to you for information and for any action you may deem desirable.**

Enc.

Bufile **100-16177**

Urfile **134-66**

**ENCLOSURE**

**NOT RECORDED**

**25 JAN 28 1969**

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 6-1-84 BY SP2-TAP/STC**

47  
**56 JAN 30 1969**

January 13, 1969

Dear Arbor:

The other night I listened to a television interview, and it prompted me to send you this note.

The interviewer was Casper Citron; the person interviewed George (Blake) Charney. It was on NYC January 11th, at 8:30 p.m.

You must remember George - he was one of the defendants in the Flynn case.

He claimed he is out of the Party since 1958, and attributes it to the Russian intervention in Hungary. The occasion for the interview was a book he wrote, "A Long Journey," with a Foreword by Michael Harrington, national secretary of the Socialist Party.

The poor fellow was full of contradictions in his statements. For example, he stated that he could never believe that the monolithic structure of communism could be undermined (China).

How can he square that statement with CP denial that the CPUSA was not dominated by the leadership of the monolithic structure, namely the CPSU leadership?

And there are many other conflicting statements he made. It would be a good idea for someone to see him, since he claims to be out of the Party.

He called the Bureau agents "Princeton boys." He also stated he never believed the Party accusation of me as a Bureau spy in the CP. And, as you may recall our conversation during the trial, he publicly stated now, that the accusation against me was made by Rakosi in Hungary.

If you are interested, I think you should get a tape of the interview from the television station. It is owned by New York City.

I hope you will forgive me for burdening you with this problem.

Wishing you, [redacted] the best of health, I remain,

b6  
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-6-84 BY SP2 TAP/JAK

Yours sincerely,

*John*  
John Lautner

P.S. The New York City Board of Education has just appointed [redacted] as trial examiner in the dispute between P.S. 201 and 9 union teachers. [redacted]

b6  
b7C

ENCLOSURE